

The Standard

WEEKLY PACKET EDITION

No 1,834

BUENOS AIRES, MONDAY, MAY 17, 1897

PRICE 20 CENTS

YEAR XXXVII

Special Telegram.

TO
STANDARD.

Montevideo 16th
News has come of a decisive battle between General Villar's forces and those of Lamas. The battle took place close to frontier at Punta del Arroyo Blanco, Department of Rivera, on the road to Bagé. Lamas's forces occupied advantageous positions, his men being placed in holes (pozos), but were utterly routed by Government troops and breaking up into groups fled over the frontier. The fighting was very severe and lasted from 11 in the morning until half past 5 in the afternoon, six hours and a half, before the Blancos were finally dislodged from their positions and put to flight. News of this important battle which took place yesterday arrived only to-day, because General Villar had to send his messengers ("chascos") thirty leagues on horseback to Corrales or Cuiapirú, to reach the nearest telegraph office.

LATER.

Official bulletin confirms news which I wired this afternoon concerning complete defeat of troops of Lamas and Saravia, and their flight towards Brazilian frontier. In Montevideo a crowd passed through streets cheering President Borda and Colorado Party; but on reaching Plaza Matriz it was broken up by the police by order of Government, who considered such a demonstration unsuitable for a victory gained over fellow-countrymen. President's house crowded by persons of all parties and opinions who come to congratulate him on the prospect of immediate peace and prosperity after an iniquitous civil strife which has cost the republic so dear.

Siglo publishes report of Finance Committee of Senate in regard to war expenses. It is too long to wire but I recommend report to your attention as showing what are some of the direct expenses of the Blanco revolution. I give a few of the figures omitting fractions. Purchase of armament \$1,187,489; mobilisation of forces \$436,773; total \$1,624,268, adding to this accounts still unpaid we have a total of \$1,998,723. Receipts: additional 2% import duty has given \$664,914, tobacco tax \$390,488. The above receipts represent only the product of the extraordinary tax imposed about a year ago at the time of the scare of a war between Chile and Argentina.

The balances of Bank of Republic for April are published. They show little change from preceding month. The new P. M. G. is working hard to improve the postal service, and his brought back many fresh ideas from his visit to the Porto Post Office; also fifty pillar-boxes which are to be set up here as soon as proper mail carts shall have been acquired. Better arrangements will be made for receiving letters up to the latest moment, both at the mole and at railway station.

La Razón publishes an amusing article on the fact of Sr. Lira the new Chilean Minister wearing ordinary evening dress when presenting his credentials to the President. Instead of the much gold, belated uniform in use by most South American diplomats. Seven Italians, members of the crew of the filibuster steamer Ernestina R. have been released on bail.

The smaller notes of the Bank of Republic will shortly be put in circulation. The notes forming circulation of Bank were supplied after public competition by the German firm of Giesecke and Desobry whose representative is Mr. Jacob Penner of your city. Their price for ten million ten thousand notes was \$92,571. The English firms who were their competitors were Bradbury Wilkinson and Co who asked \$109,841 and Waterloo and Sons \$96,620.

London Times just arrived contains fantastic account of revolution mixing up names, people, places and events in ludicrous confusion.

Stand-by O'Gorman.

(Per Ha as Agency.)

Larissa 16th—Marshal Edhem Pasha's plan of campaign is being carried out vigorously, and without any insuperable obstacles. His troops that have invaded Greece are all in secure positions; and the whole Headquarters Staff consider it absolutely impossible for the Greeks to make a successful resistance.

Athens, 16th—Another Division of the Greek troops in Crete has just been recalled to this city. Several steamers have left for the island to take them on board.

Vienna, 16th—It is announced from Thessaly that, in spite of the bad weather, Edhem Pasha's army is still advancing through that province. The bulk of it marched yesterday morning from Pharsalia on Domoko, and it is thought that a decisive battle was fought there to-day. Here it is thought that Prince Constantine cannot resist, as the Turkish troops are well supplied with long-range artillery, of which he has none.

Paris, 16—Telegrams from Athens say that, with the fresh reinforcements sent to Damoko, the Greeks have now 25,000 men there, who are strongly entrenched, and it is hoped they will be able to repel the Turkish attack. There is the most intense anxiety in the Greek capital as to the result of the expected great battle.

Constantinople, 16th—The Porte in a diplomatic note to the Powers announces

the conditions on which it is willing to agree to an armistice to facilitate a definite treaty of peace with Greece. The conditions mentioned are the following:—Annexation of Thessaly by Turkey, a war indemnity of 10 million pounds sterling and the repeal of the special privileges accorded to Greek subjects in Turkey. The note adds that the refusal to accede to any one of the above conditions will necessitate the advance of the Turkish armies in Greece.

La Canea, 16th—Greek soldiers to the number of 1100 embarked to-day for Greece. In a few days not a Greek soldier will be left on the island.

Presburg, 16th—The monument erected to the memory of the Empress Marie Therese was unveiled to-day in the presence of an immense concourse. The Emperor Francis Joseph took the leading part in the ceremony and was enthusiastically received by those present.

Vienna, 16th—According to despatches received this afternoon from Epirus the Greek army under Colonel Bairaktaris is retreating on Arta as the Turkish forces have received large reinforcements and are compelling the Greeks to evacuate the positions they recently re-occupied. It is added that the Greek troops in Arta and on the frontier of Epirus will now remain on the defensive in order not to hamper in any way the mediation of the Powers. Madrid, 16th—General Polavieja arrived here this afternoon from Barcelona. An enormous crowd was in waiting at the railway station and the ex-Governor of the Philippines was enthusiastically cheered all the way from the station to the Palace.

REVIEW.

The week has been excessively dull on both sides of the Plate. In the Banda Oriental the revolution drags on and no serious engagement has taken place. Both the Government troops and the Blanco revolutionists are simply dodging each other, afraid to come to close quarters. This springs from the fact that neither have a capable leader. Since the battle of Tres Arboles the movements of the troops and of the patriots bear the stamp of military incapacity. Lamas is an intelligent officer, but he has to bow to the decision of his superior, General Saravia. As for the Government troops, they are led by the men of the old military school, the same as Saravia, more accustomed to the gaucho warfare with lance and knife than to modern tactics with magazine rifles and artillery. As both parties are afraid to risk a pitched battle, this revolution in Uruguay may last six months and drain the country of its resources. Every day that passes confirms the power of the Uruguayan President, although the finances of his Government are going from bad to worse. It should be added that news from a Bordista source was received last night to the effect that the rebel army had been utterly routed by the Government forces under General Villar, and that it was flying in all directions across the Brazilian frontier.

The intervention in San Luis bears all the time-honored features of such local collisions of Legislatures with Executives in Argentine federal history. The National Government has shown common sense in reinstating the San Luis Government and checking the hostility of the Legislature. What that province needs is not a Governor with two Cabinet Ministers, nor a Senate, nor a Legislature—but a Chief of Police appointed by the National Government to give security to life and property. As matters stand, San Luis is unfit for the machinery of federal Government, which is but a sham—Argentines see this, but they will not alter it.

The action of Congress has been nil up to date. The Executive is slow in sending in bills, and both Senators and Deputies, in the absence of business, do not care to sit. The National Executive has been absorbed in the task of choosing a new Minister for the War and Marine office. Mr. Villanueva's successor will be General, Judge, Dr. Benjamin Victorica, an old hand in the Cabinet. During General Roca's term of office he filled the post of Minister of War and organized the campaign against the Indians. In politics the new Minister is known to be a staunch follower of General Roca.

Business in this market is decidedly bad, and embarrassments are still the order of the day. Both imports and exports are dull. Even speculation on the Buenos Ayres Bolsa is at a very low ebb. The principal disturbance in the market is noted in the wholesale dry-goods and "corralon" business; competition on the one hand and the losses in the rural districts on the other are the chief cause of the crisis in that line. Bankers, however, state that, with these two exceptions, business is sound in the market; affairs

may not be active, but they are steady, in their opinion. The same view they also take of exports which are going forward in a very steady manner; the falling-off in exports of tillage products is very heavy, as may be gleaned from our export tables. It is also interesting to watch the railway table and compare figures with last year.

The most significant feature of this week has been the export of specie to Brazil and Europe. Fair consignments of sovereigns have been sent to Rio, of American and German gold to Germany. As a rule, gold shipments cause a panic in the money market here, but this time the efflux has taken place without producing any strong rise in the gold premium. The first large shipment was followed by a flutter in speculative circles, and dealers managed to push gold above 200% premium. Since then the market has grown calmer, and gold this week closes with a falling tendency at 188% premium. On the 5th inst., the premium stood at 189 1/4 %, on the 12th it touched top price at 203 %, and on Saturday it closed at 197.80 %.

As might be inferred from the efflux of specie from this market, the rate of exchange on London has been far from firm. If bills are scarce, we may add that the demand is not much to speak of either. It is probable that the exchange rate will totter round the neighborhood of par until July, and that gold will be shipped intermittently. We quote exchange rates as follows:

On London 47 9/16 d.
On Paris 4.98-98 1/4 fcs.
On Antwerp 4.99-99 1/4 fcs.
On Hamburg 4.06 mks.

SPORT.

RACING AT PALERMO.

The Jockey Club's luck seems to have disappeared, totally deserted it, as the weather left Sunday a blank and spoiled yesterday completely. The day broke up after the classic and there was no holding back about it either; down came the rain in a steady pour and when the thunder began to rumble the place cleared like magic and the stands filled up. Racing of course became a jumble after that. It was no longer a question of form, and as the two races previous to the downpour had been marred by wretched starts it was a most unsatisfactory day right through. To the general surprise Independent did not fill his inscription in the Selling Stakes which cleared the way for Grillon who started as big outsider and won easily. Alarife got so much the best of the start in the second race, that he could not lose it, whilst Balcarce got away first with the rain coming down heavily and the course thickening, Garrido in the long-distance very prudently played a waiting game with Lantoro who then got the best of Yeruá at the finish. By the time the sprint was run the course was already a swamp, so it was no surprise to see Namuncura, a veritable mudlark, take a long lead of everything; he must have held 3 or 4 lengths' advantage of everything at the stand, but here Esfinge came with a terrific rush and overhauling the leader hand over hand beat him very easily; an almost astonishing finish considering the ground the mare had to make up in a bare hundred metres. The mud was responsible for another upset in the Mile which fell to Extra whilst Lanterne appropriated the final bringing a disappointing day to a close.

Premio Remate.

For all horses of 3 years and more. Weight for age. The winner to be sold; upset price \$2000. Any horse inscribed to be sold at less than the upset price will have 3 kilos less for every \$500 less. Distance 1600 metres. Prize \$1,500 to the 1st and 100 to the 2nd.

	Ys.	Ks.
Ecurie Azur, Grillon by Paul's Gray out of La Cigale.....	4	54 1
Petite Ecurie, Cartujo.....	4	54 2
Stud Calchin, Flecha II.....	3	51 3
Also ran—Rigoló, Orleans, Ros. de La Plata.		

Sport—Grillon 33.68, Place 13.84 Cartujo 5.12.

Flecha with Cartujo at her girths made play to the straight, where positions were reversed, Cartujo taking command. At the paddock Grillon drew up and easily getting the upper hand went on to win by a couple of lengths a similar distance separating second and third.

Premio Doblete.

For two year olds. Weight 52 and 50 kilos. Three kilos extra to the winners of a race. The winners of classic prices are excluded. Distance 1,000 metres. Prize \$1,800 to the 1st and 150 to the 2nd.

	Ys.	Ks.
Stud Santa Fé, Alarife, by Avril out of Intervention.....	2	58 1
Stud Los Cardos, Abrojo.....	2	52 2
Ecurie Semper Paratus, Pompeyo.....	2	52 2

Also ran—Doblete, Flamant, Alcachofa, Hugo, Victrix, Glicina, Mareca, Samaritana, Sultana, Onagh, Fanciulla, Primavera, Espingarda, Ancoara.

Sport—Alarife 26.39, Place 7.69, Abrojo 3.75, Pompeyo 14.43.

After innumerable breaks away the flag was lowered to a watched start, the favorite Doblete being left behind. Alarife stole a flying lead which he increased to about 4 lengths rounding the bend. Abrojo challenged very determinedly in the last 100 metres and made up a lot of ground but never got really on terms being beaten by about 4 lengths. Pompeyo was only a poor third and Onagh fourth.

Premio Luro.
For colts and fillies born since 1st August 1894. Weight 54 and 52 kilos; 3 kilos extra for the winner of a classic race and 5 for winners of 2 or more. Distance 1100 metres. Prize \$4000 to the 1st, 500 to the 2nd and free entrance fee to the 3rd.

Petite Ecurie, Balcarce by Gay Hermit out of Maria Luisa..... 2 57 1
Stud El Derby, Pillito..... 2 57 2
Stud Los Cardos, Kean..... 2 54 3
Also ran—General Hornos, Orange, Osado, Pepina, Rosette, Yanguetrú, Macao, Filosofa, Tarantula, Tamboerick, India, San Tamo, Julius Caesar, Devona, Oriente II, Busca Vida.

Another miserable start, there being quite 50 metres or more between the leaders of the first group and the head of the second. Balcarce jumped right off the mark and making all the running won as he placed. Pillito only beat Kean a head for second place and Orange was a fair fourth.

Sport—Balcarce 9.39; Placa 4.19. Pillito 7.15. Kean 4.55.

Premio Alcoron.

Handicap for all horses. Distance 2500 metres. Prize \$2,300 to the 1st and 200 to the 2nd.

	Ys.	Ks.
Petite Ecurie, Lantero by Solomon out of Lise Fleuron.....	3	53 1
Stud Yaguari, Yeruá.....	4	46 2
Stud Paris, Cantiniere.....	7	55 3
Also ran—Policeman and Espoir.		

Yeruá settled down pace making with Espoir at his heels, Policeman at the latter's girths, the Cantiniere with Lantero whipping in. This order was observed all the way round and into the straight where Garrido brought Lantero up with a rattle and stalling off a vigorous challenge from Yeruá won by about a length. A bad third.

Sport—Lantero \$13.56; Placé 5.20. Yeruá 2.94.

Premio Fauvette.

Handicap for all horses that have not won \$10,000. Distance 1,000 metres. Prize \$1,600 to the 1st and 150 to the 2nd.

	Ys.	Ks.
Stud Solitario, Esfinge by Jupiter out of Glenshee.....	4	57 1
Stud Esperanza, Namuncura.....	5	50 2
Ecurie Nautilus, Daine.....	3	46 3
Also ran—Combate, Nemo, Voltigeur, Voladora, Fauvette, Damara, Gavroche, Avenir, Azucena, Galatea, Sorpresa, Colipse and Orbe.		

Namuncura jumped off in front and was three or four lengths to the fore at the stand. Here Esfinge began to pick him up stride by stride and collaring him 20 metres from the post beat him easily by a length.

Sport—Esfinge \$29.79, Placé 9.42, Namuncura 4.14, Daine 7.75.

Premio Minerva.

Handicap for all horses. Prize \$1,700 to the 1st and \$100 to the 2nd. Distance 1600 metres.

	Ys.	Ks.
Ecurie Azur, Extra by Soukarakas out of Etiole.....	3	45 1
Stud Las Piedras, Hipolito.....	4	44 2
Stud Amanto, Electrica.....	4	50 3
Also ran—Mundial, Rayon d'Or, Pick Pocket, Daza and Cristiana.		

Cristiana and Electrica shewed the way to the straight where Extra shot up and taking a length lead held it to the post, Hipolito beating Electrica by a neck for second money.

Sport—Extra \$18.68, Placé 7.55, Hipolito 5.73.

Premio Flecha II.

Handicap for all horses. Distance 1800 metres. Prize \$2,000 to the 1st and 200 to the 2nd.

	Ys.	Ks.
Stud Magna Domus, Lanterne by Neapolis out of Légère.....	3	43 1
Stud Don Gonzalo, Don Gonzalo.....	3	48 2
Ecurie Belgrano, Rose Royale.....	4	48 3
Also ran—Beaujeu, Rosita de la Plata. Lanterne took up the running at the railway crossing and never being troubled afterwards went on to win by about 8 lengths.		

FOOTBALL.
LOMAS A. C. P. BELGRANO "A".

This League match was played at Lomas yesterday, resulting in a most decisive victory for the home team. In justice to Belgrano, it must be said that the full team originally chosen did not put in an appearance, and it does not redound to the credit of the absentees that they should leave their companions in the lurch, especially where the honour of the club is concerned.

Lomas winning the toss elected to defend the Banfield end goal, a very strong wind blowing across the ground. The ball was immediately carried into the Belgrano quarters, and Boyd had to concede a corner, which however resulted in nothing. From the kick-off, J. O. Anderson got possession and passed to his brother H. B. who headed through, scoring first blood for Lomas, within five minutes from the start. The Belgrano forwards now attacked; but without avail as the ball was again to close proximity to their goal. Two corners resulted but were not improved

upon, and for some little time the play was in the centre. Belgrano now gave many corners, and from a scrimmage in front of goal, the ball was put through again. From the kick off, Brodie and Christian made a good run, but without avail, as A. Anderson relieved, and the ball being carried down the field, Stirling scored a third goal and shortly before half time, Gibson put a fourth to the credit of the home team.

The second half was simply a struggle in front of the Belgrano goal, J. O. Anderson scoring with a splendid side shot, Stirling, shooting well, made the sixth, and shortly after scored the seventh, H. B. Anderson making the eighth from a corner. Stirling scoring the ninth and Gibson finishing by beating the goal keeper and making the score ten goals to nothing. Belgrano were distinctly over-matched, the Lomas men out-playing them in every way.

Belgrano "B".

Goal—R. Mackinnon.
Backs—W. H. Fowler and J. H. Boyd.
4 Backs—G. Wood, E. Davies and J. Fraser.
Forwards—E. G. Christian, G. A. Christian, A. Brodie, J. H. Davies and R. McFarlane.

Lomas.

Goal—P. L. G. Bridger.
Backs—A. Anderson, J. Wright.
4 Backs—L. Jacobs, F. H. Jacobs, H. P. Wright.
Forwards—J. O. Anderson, W. Stirling, C. Gibson, H. B. Anderson, G. M. Comber, Referee—R. W. Rudd, Esq.

RUGBY FOOTBALL.

A pick-up game was played at Lomas yesterday when the team captained by the Secretary of the B.A.F.C. beat the team captained by the Captain of the same Club, by three tries to nothing. The game was played in a perfect rain storm, which prevented anything like an exhibition of good form.

FLORES A. C. V. PALERMO

This match which was played yesterday at Flores in pouring rain, resulted in a win for the home teams by no fewer than 11 goals against nil. The game all along was in the hands of the home team and they did just as they pleased. Palermo started the game by kicking off at 3.30 sharp, just when the rain was hardest, but the Flores men collared the ball and the result of the first 1/4 of an hour's play was a goal for them, kicked by Syer after a fine run down. When the first half of the game was over Flores had scored 7 goals out of which Syer had kicked 3 and Allan 4. In the second half Flores still held the game in hand the whole side playing up very well. Palermo got the ball down near their rivals goal several times but to no purpose as it was quickly taken into their ground again. Finally when time was called Flores had 11 goals and Palermo nil. The best goals for the winners were kicked by Allen, Murphy and Goydard. The following were the team:—

Palermo

Goal—A. Campbell.
Full Backs—J. Campbell, A. Rugeroni.
4 Backs—T. Mullaly, D. Brett, J. McCulloch.
Forwards—Walter Stirling (Capt.) E. Potter, Knaudt and J. Lane.

Flores.

Brown, Gordon, Syer, Gahan, Goddard, Murphy, Fothergill, Jordan, Allen, Bartman and Wilson.
Referee—J. Murphy Esq.

BANFIELD A. C. V. MALDONADO A. C.

A weak team of banfield A.C. tried conclusions yesterday on their own ground with a team representing Maldonado, play commencing at 2.50 p.m.

The visitors turned up several of their number short and some of home league team acted as substitutes for them.

Shortly after commencing from a good pass from wing Goode scored the 1st point of the game in favor of the visitors.

On restarting after a little give and take play Scharenberg obtained possession and passed to A. Brown outside right, and this player running up beat the Maldonado custodian with a very hard shot.

Just before 4 time a piece of smart combination in the centre enabled Hirst to score a 2nd point for the home team, and score at half time stood 2 to 1 in their favor.

Shortly after restarting Hirst passing to Scharenberg enabled him to add a 3rd point.

No further score was added in spite of some brilliant efforts on the part of F. Wilson and other of the Maldonado forwards to add to their total and when time was called, the home team had won by 3 goals to 1 after a very pleasant game in spite of the rain which fell during the 2nd half.

The following were the teams:—
Banfield A.C.

M. Dunn, A. M. Brown, Scharenberg, T. C. Enright, J. Campbell, A. Harriman, D. Watson, Hirst, McDough, A. Poulton.

Maldonado A.C.

Mr. Inglis (Capt.), F. Hore, E. Bonnet, Maclean, A. J. Goode, F. Wilson, J. Watson, H. and O. Michaelson, Roberts and Morgan.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

The La Plata Wiggins and the full moon had it all their own way yesterday, and made 725,000 people miserable. Our polite appeal to the Clerk of the Weather to postpone the rain till to-day had no effect, and down came the buckets in the early afternoon, when a good many

people had been beguiled out of doors by the semi-fair, fair-weather look of the sky in the forenoon. Of course, most of the rackets on the card for the day were either knocked on the head altogether or carried out under depressing and dreary circumstances. To make matters worse, there was nothing, or almost nothing, in the papers. It was the dreariest Sunday for a long time. In spite of the doubtful aspect of the weather in the forenoon, there was a big crowd in Plaza San Martin from an early hour to witness the unveiling of Falucho's statue. Most of them were citizens of color; and it may be added that they celebrated the too-long delayed honour to their heroic ebony brother so copiously at morning, at noon and at night, that they were "over all the hills of life victorious" when they went to bed. The troops of the Line were drawn up at an early hour, also several Societies, and the crowd increased till eventually the monument was unveiled in the rain. General Mitre was one of the speakers.

The special in our telegraphic column, from our ever vigilant friend Standby-O'Gorman, announces the complete rout of the rebels, under Saravia and Lamas, by the Government forces under General Villar, in Ceros Blancos, Department of Rivera, on the Brazilian frontier. According to the information received by President Borda the rebels are flying in small groups in all directions across the Brazilian frontier. If the news is inaccurate it is at any rate very probable. If well founded, the defeat sustained by the Blancos means the end of the revolution and the ultimate though long delayed triumph of President Borda.

There was not much fresh news about the war in Europe yesterday. Colonel Smolnitsky, the most competent of all the Greek commanders, has turned all the irregulars and volunteers out of the ranks of his Line regiments, and threatened to shoot them should they attempt to return as he looks on them as the prime cause of the defeat of the Greek army, owing to their unsteadiness in action. This is by no means improbable.

The first Cinderella of the season on Wednesday night next is now the uppermost thought in fair, English-speaking circles. So pestered have the members been for tickets, that several of the members have had to turn grey and try to look twenty years older, to prove to their disappointed friends the mental torture they are suffering through not being able to give them tickets. The Hall has been so very beautifully improved, that last year's prancers will hardly recognize it.

Panama, hot Panama! It still exists. We have dates from it to the 15th ult. As usual, there is no news about Panama in the papers; but what can one expect from such a one-horse place. The Municipality of Caracas, Venezuela, has entered into a contract with Mr. James F. Carrillo, representing the Electric Light Co. of Maracaibo, for the lighting of that city with electricity. It is announced that the Colima volcano, near the City of Colima, Mexico, which was threatening for some time past, is now in a state of active eruption, and that the crops in the valley at the foot of the mountain have been destroyed. No lives were lost.

This is what a United States paper says in reference to French opinion of Kaiser William—"In spite of the enthusiasm of the French for Nicholas of Russia, Emperor William remains to them the most interesting of European sovereigns. The wildest stories are in circulation about him. He visits Paris frequently in secret, dispenses charity, walks the streets of the mighty Babel on the Seine disguised, and endeavors in every way to steal the hearts of Frenchmen. In the Cours-la-Reine is a house where he meets the only woman he really ever loved, a French countess, of course. When he pays his visits there, he is faithfully guarded by the French police, etc. The best story however, is that the emperor went to the palace at Versailles when the Czar was at Paris. There stood the Teuton autocrat, fuming with rage because the heart of Paris went out to his great northern rival. He folded his arms, he knitted his brows, and he gnashed his teeth, etc."

Our constant reader and admirer Mr. Isidro Campas, better known as the La Plata Wiggins, is tired of working for nothing, and has petitioned the provincial Chambers to pay him \$1,000 a month, if they wish the public and "humanity at large" (as he says himself) to continue to benefit by his predictions. Our vote is for Wiggins. Many a time and oft we'd have left our umbrella and top-coat at home in the morning, and got drenched to the skin before night, but for his unerring weather forecasts.

A grand naval review at Spithead has been added to the Diamond Jubilee programme, and, no doubt, it will be a stunner, to properly impress the visitors from all parts of the earth with the kind of iron walls John Bull has, and the sort of iron behind them. The Queen and Lord Salisbury are in fear and trembling at the announcement of the Sultan of Turkey that he intends to send his son and heir, Prince Effendi, as his representative at the ceremony. There will certainly be a terrible row if this unwelcome visitor turns up, as a London mob is not in the habit of concealing its feelings, no matter what the international consequences may be; and the Liberal papers are making unpleasant dead certain by referring to Prince Effendi as the "representative of the Assassin," a needless insult that may have very embarrassing consequences.

Where is the Demon of Lottery gambling going to halt? We are to have a "grande" of \$500,000, in honour of the Fiestas Patrias, on the 24th inst.; and "Old mortals," it has already been decided that the big prize in the Christmas Eve Lottery on 24th of December next is to be one million of shimplaters!!! This beats everything in the Lottery line as yet attempted in this gambling-mad city. What dreams will be dreamt about it between now and then.

The Joseph F. Loubat, with the Ransom gold-seeking expedition on board, and about whose safety great fears were entertained, has been heard from at last. She is anchored in Sluggard Bay, all well on board.

Ladies, if the following Fashion hint prove of use to you, it will make us happy. As low-necked dresses become fashionable in New York, in London they are rapidly on the decline, except for a ball or a very large dinner. At one time it was almost necessary to wear a low gown to the theatre in London, but now when one sees a décolleté gown it looks provincial, as all the smart set have adopted fluff "chiffonne" blouses for evening wear. The reason for this is that the theatres are insufficiently heated, and the houses in winter are always a little cold. For all small, smart dinners, high-necked "dresy" evening blouses, or tea-jackets, are frequently if not generally seen. In fact, so well is the full-made dress appreciated that even at court presentations the queen permits a heart-shaped or a semi-low neck, with long sleeves.

The royal circle at home has become infected with the bicycle craze. Prince Henry of Prussia, brother of Emperor William, and Prince Christian Victor recently competed in a thirty-mile race for a prize given by the Queen. The course was between Balmoral and Braemar Castle. Grooms were placed along the route with water and sponges to assuage the thirst and cool the heads and necks of the royal racers. Prince Henry was literally beaten out of sight. Prince Christian winning by a half hour.

Young Gerald du Maurier, who is now acting in New York, comes forward at this late day with the statement that his father pronounced the name of Svengali with the accent on the first syllable. This is in accordance with the usual method of pronouncing Slavic names.

The Automobile Club, of Paris, has secured fifteen automobiles for the use of members. They are to have a regular "stand" in the Place de l'Opéra, but only members of the club may hire them.

Snow in May! And in fair and sunny Italy too! So the cable says. This will be an unpleasant surprise for Dr. Syntax. There will certainly be no no-toting in the Deputy to-day, as Dr. Darcel's motion to tackle the Government about its intervention in San Luis is on the card, and may lead to another change in the Cabinet; at least so some very wide-awake politicians say.

(WEEKLY ISSUE.)

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

UNITED KINGDOM.

London, 10th.—Lord Salisbury declared to night in the House of Lords that only a fraction of the Greek Government—not the entire Cabinet—was disposed to accept the mediation of the Powers in favour of the cessation of the war with Turkey. The Prime Minister, however, expressed the opinion that the present difficulties would shortly be overcome, and confirmed the withdrawal from Crete of the Greek forces as well as the acceptance by King George's Government of autonomy for that island.

London, 11th.—After a Cabinet Council presided over by King George of Greece and which lasted with a few intervals from last night until early this morning, Premier Ralli was authorized to send a collective note to the European Powers placing the fate of Greece in their hands. Many Chief officers belonging to the Army and Navy were present. Greece does not fix any basis for making peace with Turkey, and places herself completely in the hands of the European Powers. The necessary orders have been given for the Greek troops yet in Crete to obey the instructions given to them by Army and Navy representatives of the Powers. The note of the Greek Government insinuates the immediate and peremptory necessity of an armistice, to stop the advance of the Turkish troops in Greek territory and allow the Powers to carry out the negotiations for peace. These resolutions have created great excitement amongst the people, and this gives rise to fears of serious disturbances, and it is necessary for the forces to garrison Athens and the Piræus. The Royal Family is being subjected to hostile manifestations and threats of death. Each of the Foreign Representatives here has received a copy of the Greek Government's note.

London, 12th.—A very sad accident occurred here to-day. Monsignor Donnelly, the Catholic Auxiliary Bishop of Dublin, at present in London, when riding on his bicycle was knocked down by a cart and killed on the spot.

London, 15th.—The well informed financial paper *The Statist* qualifies the Message of the Argentine President to Congress as very pessimistic. Amongst other statements it maintains that nothing definite is said with reference to the full payment of the service on the Debt, and asks: "Does not this Message show that the Minister of Finance wishes to contract another Moratorium Loan?" The article has attracted attention in financial circles.

FRANCE.

Paris, 10th.—A telegram from Athens states that the majority of the Greeks are resigned to the withdrawal of the Hellenic army from Crete. A few journals continue to protest against the measure.

Paris, 10th.—There is every confidence in a speedy end to the Greco-Turco conflict. The leading men here opine that the negotiations for peace will be easily carried out, and that a friendly treaty between the two powers will shortly be signed. It is already known that Greece has semi-officially declared to the representative of the powers that she will accept Home Rule for Crete in the form deemed expedient by the powers. The press here, and in other large European cities, comments very favourably on the decision of Greece, and records the efforts of the Powers to solve the conflict.

Paris, 10th.—It is asserted now that the donor of the 937,000 francs is a Catholic lady whose name is known only to the Archbishop Richard and to Baron Mackau.

Paris, 11th.—In official circles it is considered that the negotiations of the European Powers for mediating in the Greco-Turco conflict have succeeded. The

Greek Government accepts that intervention in favour of peace, and binds herself to abide by the resolutions which the Great Powers may adopt. The negotiations with the Turkish Government for the same object will shortly commence.

Paris, 12th.—A telegram from Athens asserts that on board the Turkish vessel captured to-day near the Sporades islands Greek war-vessels, were found several German Officers; a valuable cargo of military stores also fell into the hands of the Greeks at the same time.

Paris, 12th.—Baron von Morenheim, the Russian Ambassador, handed to-night to M. Faure an autograph letter from the Czar Nicholas II in which his Majesty expresses in feeling terms the profound grief caused to himself and the Czarina by the news of the fearful disaster in the Charity Bazaar of the Rue Jean Goujon. The Emperor adds that his friendship for France will always remain unaltered.

GERMANY.

Berlin, 11th.—Telegrams from Paris announce that the German Ambassador has forwarded to Count Mackau, President of the Charity Bazaar recently burnt down, the sum of 10,000 francs in name of his Sovereign for distribution amongst the different charitable societies in this city. This act of the Emperor has created a very good impression here.

RUSSIA.

St. Petersburg, 14th.—It is asserted that the Sublime Porte will ask Greece for war indemnity of seventy-eight million francs. It is asserted that the Powers will not oblige Greece to hand her fleet over to Turkey as a guarantee for the payment of the indemnity but they will insist on Greece always paying in the first instance the interest on her foreign debt. This news is taken from a good source and published by Government organs.

St. Petersburg, 15th.—In the railway accident in Livonia yesterday, it appears that a train full of troops derailed near Darpat, but the number of victims is less than at first stated. Thirty-one dead bodies have been taken from the debris, and there are 25 injured. It is thought that there must be at least twenty more men killed.

AUSTRIA.

Vienna, 11th.—In reply to the note presented by the Powers, Greece definitely accepts their mediation, and also the autonomy of Crete. King George's Government places its interests unreservedly in the hands of Europe.

Vienna, 15th.—Telegrams from Arta report a rumour here that the Turkish troops in Preveza, who are without provisions and ammunition, sent the Archbishop of the place to-day to the Greek commander, offering to capitulate if their lives were spared and property respected.

GREECE.

Athens, 10th.—The Turkish troops continue their advance on Domokos. The Greek forces cantoned there number 10,000 men, all eager to fight, according to telegrams received from that locality. A battle appears imminent, and it is thought that it will take place to-day.

Athens, 13th.—The Greek forces in the Epirus are advancing successfully, rolling back the Turkish Army Corps which occupied the South of that Province. The Greek squadron continues holding the mastery at sea, and Admiral Salopoules keeps a strict blockade in the Gulf of Salonica.

Athens, 14th.—The latest telegrams from Athens say that the battle commenced this morning near Gribovo is one of the most bloody yet fought. Hot fighting was maintained until mid-day. Ammunition then gave out and bayonet charges were resorted to on both sides. The Greek troops have already lost 500 men in killed and nearly an equal number in wounded. The number of the losses on Turkish side are unknown. The Greek brigade, though decimated, shows no sign of being disheartened. The battle continued in the afternoon but the victory is yet undecided.

The Greeks attacked to-day the city of Nicopolis; but were repulsed. Later on the Greeks received reinforcements and again attacked the Turkish positions but the garrison still resists.

Athens, 15th.—The Ambassadors of the Powers have reproached M. Skouloudis Minister of Foreign Affairs, for the offensive military operations of the Greek troops in the Epirus; and at the same time reminded him that this action hampers the negotiations for peace. M. Skouloudis replied that the Greek Government was at perfect liberty to carry out the military operations it thought best as long as the armistice was not signed.

Athens, 15th.—The Greek Government in a note to the Powers, justifies the renewal of hostilities in Epirus on the ground that when the Greek forces retired on Arta, the Moslem troops commenced to massacre the peasants.

TURKEY.

Constantinople, 10th.—Marshal Osman Pacha returned to the Capital this afternoon, as his presence in Epirus or Thessaly is no longer necessary. The populace accorded him an ovation, and accompanied him to the Palace amid enthusiastic cheers.

Constantinople, 12th.—The Ambassadors of the Great Powers presented to the Porte at 4.30 p.m. to-day their collective note offering to mediate in the pending Greco-Turkish war. In this document a request is made to the Sultan to agree to an armistice, Greece having already signified her willingness, in order to facilitate the negotiations for peace. No doubt is entertained that Abdul Hamid will accede to the proposal.

Constantinople, 12th.—The Turks have already organised Civil Government in all the Greek Provinces conquered by them. The ex-Turkish Consuls in Larissa, Pharsalia, Volo and Trikala have been appointed Governors of their respective localities.

Canea, 14th.—The British Admiral and Consul have issued a fresh proclamation to the insurgents asking them to lay down their arms. This proclamation, issued without the participation or consent of the other Admirals and Consuls, will, it appears, give rise to some diplomatic unpleasantness. The other Admirals have telegraphed to their respective Governments asking for instructions.

SPAIN.

Madrid, 15th.—The Spanish Government has resolved to spend eight millions sterling more in the War and Marine departments, owing to the prospect of the continuation of war operations in Cuba and the Philippine Islands.

ITALY.

Brindisi, 14th.—The King of Siam, Pamarinir Maha Chulalongkorn, arrived here this afternoon on board his yacht Mahachackri. His Majesty comes to Europe for the express purpose of being present at the Diamond Jubilee fêtes of Queen Victoria and will also visit Italy, Switzerland, France, Denmark, Russia, Sweden and Norway. The distinguished visitor was received with a Royal salute of cannon.

MONTEVIDEO.

Montevideo 12th.—Minister of War has received dispatches from General Santos Arribio giving a detailed account of his late marches and counter-marches in pursuit of the rebel army. News comes from San Eugenio that all is quiet there.

Dr. Nin, Minister to England, will leave shortly to assist at the Jubilee fêtes. He has been delayed in order to give him full details of a special financial mission with which he is to be entrusted, which is probably connected with the war loan that is to be launched. The Chilean Minister, Sr. Santa Cruz, has presented to the President his letters of recall.

General Melitón Muñoz has gone to Canelones to dismiss his troops who are chiefly poor agricultural laborers. Five hundred of these soldiers had already been disbanded and strict orders have been given to the rural police not to re-enlist them nor annoy them in any manner.

From Melo comes news of the death of General Agustín Muñoz at the age of one hundred years and some days. He was one of the heroes of the war of Independence.

Tribuna states that the company which sub-let Sr. Beisso's famous concession for killing seals wishes to rescind their contract as they are losing money. Beisso refuses to let them off, so that if they carry out their intention they will forfeit the £20,000 which they have deposited as security besides all they have invested at the island where the seals are killed and skinned. The contract is for ten years, but it seems that seals are scarce.

It is stated that next month all the branches of the Republic of the Republic of Rio Negro, will be again supplied with funds and set to work tending money to the estancieros.

The *Bien* announces that a Bolsa broker has stated that since last November the amount of Uruguayan consols held in this country has increased by about a million sterling. As in that time the price has varied between forty-three and thirty-seven, this means that nearly two million dollars have left the country, but that the interest payable on the consols will remain.

The President's banquet to the departing Chilean Minister, Santa Cruz, was a brilliant success. It took place at the President's private house. The menus were printed in water colors showing the Uruguayan and Chilean flags. The customary cordial toasts were exchanged. Many ladies were present at the banquet which was followed by a reception.

Medici and Co., who have the concession for the Western railway for sixty years and for the port of Sauce, for twenty five years, have appealed to the Chamber of Deputies to extend the time of the concession to the same length as the former on account of difficulties of a financial nature caused by the discrepancy.

The Captain of the Montevideo of the River line has made a serious declaration at the Capitania in regard to his late collision with the Tridente. He practically accuses the Tridente of having collided purposely with his boat on previous occasions. His protest is also signed by several of his passengers who witnessed the collision.

I have plenty of news items to send, but the telegraph will not receive my dispatch after 10, and it is now past 9.30.

Having sent various comments in the Buenos Aires Press in regard to disbanding of forces of Gen. Muñoz, I interviewed the President on the subject.

He says that Muñoz has disbanded fifteen hundred men, whose services are required for agricultural work in the Department of Canelones. That it is not true that Muñoz has come to live in Montevideo and will take no further part in the war. Muñoz is military commander of the capital, and his forces will be summoned by telephone and telegraph, of which there is a very complete service throughout the department. General Muñoz himself is at his camp at Santa Rosa with a few hundred men and his artillery. He is on the best of terms with all his fellow officers and with the Government which regards him as an officer who has done his duty well.

The rivers and brooks are still in floods, rendering movements of armies well nigh impossible, particularly for Government forces with artillery too heavy for horses of the country and which has to be dragged by oxen over the roadless country.

Montevideo, 14th.—A leading article in this morning's *Nación*, the official organ, states that the press of Buenos Aires renders itself ridiculous by publishing accounts of battles and victories of the Blancos which that Launas and Saravia are close to the Brazilian frontier with their forces demoralized, without clothes, food, money, ammunition and prestige. Government intends to disband the marine battalion and the "Battalion Presidente". The latter just marched past my window, they are fine powerful men mostly sons of colonists from the Canary Islands and hail from the Department of Canelones. This continual disbanding of troops would seem to indicate a feeling of confidence on the part of the Government.

Never was any diplomat in this city so highly snubbed, rebuffed, and pampered as the outgoing Chilean Minister Sr. Santa Cruz. Last night there was another banquet offered him in the house of Sr.

Sanchez, prefect of the Capital. The local press, following a stupid custom, publishes the menu and list of guests.

The new batteries received by the Pampeños have been set up in the artillery park. A new battalion of artillery is to be organized. Practice with the Bange Canon guns gives excellent results as to marksmanship, and the working and quality of the guns.

The crew of the Ernestina R., the filibuster steamer taken by Government, have been placed at the disposal of the Judge for trial. Their advocate asks that they should be set at liberty unconditionally, as they were quite innocent of any participation in the doings of the persons who used the vessel for revolutionary purposes.

Montevideo, 15th.—In my wanderings about town I am struck by the large number of new buildings which are being put up, large fine modern houses in the centre and innumerable "cascoles" houses in the outlying portions of the extension of the Tome. Many new houses in process of construction in the six years that I know Montevideo. A pessimist tells me that this is a sign of hard times, as capital is being invested in building for want of more profitable employment.

Innumerable banquets and entertainments are being given. In addition to those already mentioned, the American Vice Consul Mr. Thomas Howard gave a dinner party followed by a soirée in honor of Dr. Gondra, Paraguayan Minister and Mrs. Gondra. There were present Mr. and Mrs. Rosen, the American Minister, Mr. and Miss Stuart, the new Chilean Minister Sr. Lira, Dr. Nin, Uruguayan Jubilee Minister to England, the German Consul and Mrs. Macleod and various others.

A Children's Ball will be given from eight till ten and, then will begin the grown people's Ball. The station will probably be the "locus in quo". A Subscription list has been opened at the English Club for the purpose of placing in the Club a suitable Memorial of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. Thirteen of the principal English residents including Managers of the great Companies, have subscribed, and the list already amounts to \$13 pesos 18.

For three days past I am in possession of important and sensational news in regard to the Port Scheme, but may not publish it yet.

The following, which will appear in tomorrow's (Sunday's) *Montevideo Times*, speaks for itself. All comment is superfluous. "After waiting patiently for a week to see what further proceedings would be taken against us in the prosecution threatened by the man Carvalho, we yesterday received a formal notification of the prosecution from the Correctional Judge, together with a copy of the deposition of our accuser. The prosecution is on account of offence against the honor and of grave threats against the life and individual liberty. These offences, he claims, are penalized in the first case by eighteen months' imprisonment, or a fine of two thousand dollars; and in the second case by three to six months' imprisonment! In his deposition Carvalho states that he had the misfortune to kill Mr. Frank Lewis of the Central Uruguay Railway, in which he is in defence of his honor, which was vilely outraged, and of his life which was seriously threatened. For this he was duly tried, but was acquitted, and therefore he is an innocent and irreproachable man. But, notwithstanding this acquittal, Mr. Dentstone, the editor of the *Montevideo Times*, has published a series of articles in that paper, in which, in translation in the *Diario*, in which an affair is repeatedly referred to as a murder, in which Carvalho himself is spoken of as an assassin; in which it is said that he would certainly have been hanged, if the affair had been committed in England; in which it is suggested that he ought to be lynched and so forth, generally exposing him to common hatred and contempt. These articles constitute the offence complained of, and for which the prosecutor demands against us the full penalty of the law. We have reiterated the matter to our lawyer."

The following is the gist of a Government bulletin just published:—Official despatches received by the Government represent the revolutionary forces as in a very critical position. Every moment news is expected of a battle which should put an end to the war now causing so much mischief to the country. Launas and Saravia, after the Cerro Colorado, disaster fled northward to the Brazilian frontier hoping to receive there supplies of ammunition. As is known, these they were unable to obtain. They have consequently retraced their steps southwards, but will be unable to cross the Rio Negro, since all the passes are guarded. Villar and Klinger are advancing with numerous forces to attack them, and the rebels have no choice, but to fight or surrender.

Their forces number barely 2000 men badly armed and ammunition and thoroughly disheartened.

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PRESIDENTIAL UTTERANCES.

Although it may be assumed that the political and financial sections (already translated by us) of President Urquiza's message exhaust all the interest attaching to this periodical State document, the remaining chapters, jejune enough they appear to us, are not wholly devoid of instructiveness. We shall therefore proceed to extract, for the benefit of those of our readers who have not time to digest the entire Message, the essence of information contained therein. There is, for instance, a chapter on our railways. Nothing could be more meagre than His Excellency's remarks on this subject. He does not even tell the Chambers what the aggregate length of the railways is, and we are quite sure that the majority of his listeners, on the opening of Congress, had no more idea of the length of the network than they have of that of the canals which astronomers have discovered in Mars. Yet, could there be a more important barometer of the country's development than the working of the railways? In Europe, the acute investor watches our railway-returns. So long as they keep up he is content. If they fall, he knows that the country's vitality has been affected. He appears to have overlooked this point, possibly, the National Railway Board, to which no doubt the task of composing a chapter on our railways had been confided, did not find time to collate the requisite data. As a

matter of fact the President confines himself to a few statements. He tells us that the laws passed with regard to the construction of railways are being carried out; that the line between Patquia and Chicle is being completed, also that between Rioja and Salta al Carril, that before the end of May the slumbers of the inhabitants of Talamayuna, who sleep and snore at a distance of 35 kilometres from Rioja, will be disturbed by the whistle of the locomotive; that the "siesta" of the Riojanos themselves will be similarly troubled at the end of the year; that the works of the Bahia Blanca and North Western are being pushed forward; that the terminus Toay will be reached very shortly; that the Western Railway Co. have begun their line from Trenquelanguen to Toay and will have finished it in October; that the Southern Railway Co. are extending their rails to Neuquen, the earthworks having been already completed to kilometre 112, the rails reaching kilometre 95, that tenders have been called for the extension of the Tome Dolores Line to Renca; that plans are being made out for lines to Guachipas, to Bolivia, from Salado to Can-Cati, from San Juan to Patquia, from Aurora to La Banda; that the Paso de Los Libres Branch and that of the Rosario Railway to the Tigre have been completed—in a word that of the 1273 kilometres of railway in construction 370 have been finished.

Such, without much attempt on our part at brevity, is the information His Excellency has vouchsafed to the country on so important a subject as our railways. We may supplement his remarks by stating that there are some 15,000 kilometres of railway in operation, and that before the middle of next year the figure will probably be 17,000. Week by week, our London friends will see in our columns the statements of traffic-returns, which are an accurate barometer of the country's progress. With regard to the proposed new Central Station, the President says that the works may be begun shortly, as he has received several offers upon which he is bestowing his attention.

Turn we now to another subject treated by His Excellency in similarly jejune fashion, and which, if not in the same practical plane as the railways, is nevertheless even more closely bound up with the future of the country. We allude to the question of education. H. E. points out that the more advanced nations of the world are still in doubt as to the best system of education. This is very true. What is equally true is that Argentina, in spite of its vogue of civilization and the number of its schools, is very backward in the training of youth; but, as we repeatedly said when treating on this delicate subject, much of the perversion of youth may be directly traced to the looseness of home-training. With all our schools and our universities, there is as much indolence and idleness and uselessness as ever, as a glance at the principal walks of life will quickly convince even the most indulgent. This indolence, which has all the appearance of a national vice, is a great drawback to the moral and intellectual development of the nation. As General Mitre, perhaps the most illustrious of Argentine thinkers, says in an article in our local review, *Biblioteka*, there is even too much idleness here. But these are questions too deep for the columns of a newspaper, or even for a presidential message. His Excellency rightly calls attention to the great progress of education in our midst, as proved by the great increase in the number of schools and in school attendance. Last year there were 3,778 schools, 9,035 masters and mistresses and an attendance of 339,961, that is 463 schools, 520 masters, and 45,017 boys and girls, more than in 1895. It would be interesting to follow these figures to their sources and endeavor to ascertain how far the intellectual level of the nation has been raised by the increase H. E. so complacently refers to.

THE FINANCES OF THE MESSAGE.

In President Urquiza's Message to Congress we hear the last echoes of ex-Minister Romero's financial management in the Government, and we treasure those echoes all the more as we happened to be among the few who defended the Financial Spring in his last struggle with Congress, when he told us that the momentary financial crisis was a necessary evil, and that the resumption of full interest payments on the National Debt. All this belongs to a dead past, and, we might add, a forgotten past, but for the Presidential Message, in which the 50,000,000% deficit reverberates with all the more disturbing effects of a shrill, discordant note in the financial concert conducted by Minister Escalante since last February. To the readers of the STANDARD the deficit of 1896 is no revelation, since we thrashed the matter out months ago when criticising payment of full interest; but since the present Minister of Finance is arraigned for this very deficit, we shall re-open the chapter, resume the thread, and saddle the responsibility on the right horse, if but for the sake of fair play even in the financial parlors of the Government House.

The critical circumstances of 1895 and 1896 are still familiar to all, especially to Dr. Romero "quorum magna pars fuit," and who established quite a sphinx-like reputation as a financier of vast and varied expedients. With admirable tact and remarkable reserve he manipulated the finances to make both ends meet and mystify the good public. As if by magic, he found money for everything, for Mantel, for Krupp guns, for iron cruisers, Italian iron-clads, and all the paraphernalia of a country on the very verge of war. How did he do it? Nothing simpler: by appropriating funds in the Budget voted for other purposes, and by borrowing money at short notice abroad. Let us go back to 1894 when the cautious and suspicious Dr. Terry ended the year with a deficit of 17,000,000% and 5,350,000% gold, covered as follows, more or less:—

	\$ paper	\$ gold
Morgan Bonds.....	—	546,000
Home Consols.....	5,240,000	—
School funds.....	2,178,000	—
Loans and draws.....	—	700,000
Revenue of 1893.....	1,200,000	900,000
Passed on to 1895.....	3,100,000	4,500,000

This inheritance was passed on to Dr. Romero in 1895, and he closed his financial year with the following deficit:—19,000,000

5% paper and 9,800,000 \$ gold! In order to pay his way Minister Romero resorted to the following expedients:—

	\$ paper	\$ gold
Funding Bonds.....	—	8,254,000
Home Consols.....	1,801,000	—
Loans abroad.....	—	3,372,000
School funds.....	2,282,000	—

We may infer that 1896 was ushered in with a floating debt of about 9,000,000% paper and loans due to foreign bankers to the amount of 4,000,000 \$ gold. This was Dr. Romero's year of trial, as the extra expenditure on armament was excessive, but thanks to his excellent connection with European capitalists he aided over the situation. The President's Message does not go into details in this regard, but it states the financial results of 1896 as follows:—

	\$ %
Expenditure.....	180,394,000
Revenue.....	130,618,000
Deficit.....	49,776,000

Thus Dr. Romero closed this financial year with a deficit of, say 50,000,000% paper. With this enormous deficit weighing on the Treasury, Congress voted the Full Pay Programme and a Budget of \$152,000,000%. This is the inheritance that Dr. Escalante has taken over, and in such a solemn document as the President's Message he promises to wipe out these huge outstandings with the Ordinary Revenue of the Government. We do not wonder at his preaching economy to Congress under the circumstances, and that he is in earnest may be gleaned from the fact that this month he moves off one big block of the deficit, in the shape of payment of no less than 10,000,000 marks, a loan, no doubt, that Dr. Romero obtained from the Berlin Disconto Gesellschaft. If this operation is done out of Ordinary Revenue, we think that the mantle of the Financial Sphinx should now fall on Dr. Escalante's shoulders; it seems an impossible feat without the aid of loans from other quarters or the pawning of more Funding Bonds. Yet the Minister solemnly asserts before the country that he will cover everything with ordinary revenue; we hold him to his word, and trust that at the end of the year he may be in a position to state that he has carried out his programme without appealing to fresh loans to fresh issues, whether of paper or bonds, or to hand-to-mouth advances from foreign bankers. The task is arduous; its execution will establish his reputation as a financier.

SANTA FE DISTRESS.

In the midst of the uproar caused by the San Luis intervention and other topics that more or less excite public interest, we are reminded that the Santa Fé farmers are still clamouring for their distress money. This is a far more serious matter than the political squabbling in a distant and almost unpeopled province; but such is the perverseness of the official mind that there is little or no importance given to questions affecting the vitality and productive sources of the country. What have the Government done to enable the country to recover the losses occasioned by the locust invasion? In the first place vast sums of money were uselessly spent, when the hoppers had already become flyers, and therefore ubiquitous. Then came the cry of agricultural distress. Immense belts of cultivated land had been laid waste by the all-powerful locust. Farmers were ruined, if their inability to pay involved the collapse of stockholders, whose failure has, in its turn, occasioned the commercial distress which is so marked a feature of the present state of the market. Alarmed by the echoes of agricultural distress, the Government passed through Congress a bill for general relief. The National Mortgage Bank was authorized to give cedulas to the distressed colonists. This was welcome news for the farmers, who at once filed petitions. So far the Bank has received 1673 applications, classified thus:

Province	Applications	Amount \$
Capital and territories.....	3	25,000
La Plata.....	52	438,000
Rosario.....	157	1,114,400
Santa Fé.....	758	4,279,500
Paraná.....	221	1,504,400
Tracy.....	192	816,100
Córdoba.....	208	1,292,000
Mendoza.....	35	28,500
San Juan.....	19	161,000
Corrientes.....	5	35,000
Sancti Spiritus.....	5	30,000
Tucuman.....	8	68,000
Rioja.....	4	17,500
Catamarca.....	3	20,000
San Luis.....	1	10,000
Salta.....	0	0
Total	1673	10,078,900

It will be seen from the foregoing table that out of a total of ten millions applied for, Santa Fé demands no less than 4.4 millions to relieve the distress of her farmers. Santa Fé is unquestionably the favored province of Ceres; we must, however, in reference to its agricultural development, admit that the growth of its prosperity has been equalled by the growth of its misfortune. Part of the proof by hard facts. In 1856, the first colony was started in Santa Fé by Aaron Castellanos, but the enterprise made little headway until 1864, when four colonies, comprising a population of 2,780 souls and covering a tilled area of 12,500 acres, were started. The impulse was given, and the movement became accentuated, as the following table will show:—

Year	N. Colonies	Pop.	Acres
1864.....	4	2,780	12,500
1880.....	51	40,300	310,000
1884.....	85	68,900	540,000
1887.....	122	110,000	1,025,000
1891.....	249	180,000	1,750,000

If we double the figures

Santa Fe. The tolling settler found his profits extended from him to meet the increased salaries of legislators and the growing expenditure of unscrupulous administrations. Then the flood of revolution stalked through the smiling fields of the province, and with it came insecurity of life and property. The plantations were stained with the blood of murdered settlers, and so high rose the torrent of crime that the present Governor, whose energy is a refreshing tonic, dealt a terrible blow to Argentine sentimentalism, and ordered a murderer to be executed. Then came the locusts. In countless myriads they settled on the province, and before the colonists could organize any concerted action, the fields were laid bare.

We cannot, therefore, be far astray when we present Santa Fe as an example of prosperity and misfortune. Its settlers have prospered more than their compatriots elsewhere, but they have also suffered a great deal more. Ruined or disheartened, they clamour for money to buy seed and start their plantations afresh, and they meet with the "law's delays" and other difficulties that might discourage even Job himself. Every day sees the mass of applications for distress-money increase. The Board of the Bank meet daily to consider these petitions, but in the meantime, the colonists complain of the delays in obtaining the much-needed relief. It would appear that the chief cause of delay arises from the demands of the notaries through whose hands these applications must pass, and who are supposed to report on the titles of the applicants. The Bank had fixed \$15 as the fee for this operation, but the colonists raised so vigorous a protest that the exorbitant charge was removed. It was then the turn of the notaries to complain, and hence the delays which affect the interests of thousands, and even the sources of the country's production.

WAGES AND CURRENCY.

We are indebted to the Bureau of Statistics of the United States for a copy of its Bulletin on Money and Prices in Foreign Countries, Vol. XIII, Part II. This Bulletin is of special interest in the River Plate, as it contains a valuable chapter on wages, cost of living, and currency in the Argentine Republic, from the pen of the Hon. Wm. Buchanan, United States Minister near the Argentine Government. The talented and indefatigable compiler has squeezed into fifteen pages a wonderful amount of information, not only of exceptional interest abroad, where our currency history may not be familiar, but also of absorbing local importance, in so far as the American Minister throws a lot of light on questions that have been hardly touched in our midst.

Thus, nothing could be more interesting than a close study of the relations of wages and prices to fluctuations in the currency; to our knowledge, nobody in the Plate has taken up this subject, and but for Minister Buchanan we should be groping in the dark; and we specially recommend to Minister Escalante the official report of the American Bureau. With regard to the cost of imported articles in this country, Minister Buchanan says that each change has been in the direction of lowering their cost, and with the exception of live animals, this is equally true regarding the exports from this country. It would have been interesting to know in this respect what part the fall in the world's price-level plays in these local changes, caused, as they are, directly by fluctuations in the currency and indirectly by the cost of transport, and to our knowledge, nobody in the Plate has taken up this subject, and but for Minister Buchanan we should be groping in the dark; and we specially recommend to Minister Escalante the official report of the American Bureau. With regard to the cost of imported articles in this country, Minister Buchanan says that each change has been in the direction of lowering their cost, and with the exception of live animals, this is equally true regarding the exports from this country. It would have been interesting to know in this respect what part the fall in the world's price-level plays in these local changes, caused, as they are, directly by fluctuations in the currency and indirectly by the cost of transport, and to our knowledge, nobody in the Plate has taken up this subject, and but for Minister Buchanan we should be groping in the dark; and we specially recommend to Minister Escalante the official report of the American Bureau.

To give an idea of the industry of Minister Buchanan we cannot do better than quote what he writes on wages from 1886 to 1896:

WAGES 1886 to 1896.

The following table shows the wages received by different classes of workmen and workwomen during the years 1886, 1890, 1892, 1894, and at the present time.

It seems proper to say that in compiling this table many difficulties have been met with, the chief one being the absence of Argentine labor statistics beyond the public service. I was therefore compelled, as I have explained at the outset, to resort to first hands for the information I desired, and in carrying out this work I have met with the most kindly assistance both from the employed and from employers, to all of whom I am greatly indebted.

Occupation	1886	1890	1892	1894	1896
Per day					
Carpenters	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Carriage makers	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Blacksmiths	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Wagon makers	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Wheelwrights	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Blacksmiths	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Wagon blacksmiths	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Horsehoofers	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Blacksmiths	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Mechanics	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Foundrymen	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Jewellers	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Watchmakers	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Saddlers	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
House painters	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Carriage painters	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.50
Per month					
First class	2.00	4.50	4.75	5.00	5.75
Second class	2.25	2.75	3.45	3.50	3.85
Wagon painters	2.00	2.75	3.10	3.25	3.70
Sign painters	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	4.00
Polishers and varnishers	3.00	3.50	3.85	4.00	4.50
Tailors	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.50	4.00
First class	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50	6.00
Ordinary	2.00	2.50	2.75	3.00	3.50
By piecework					
Full dress coat	—	—	—	—	95.00
Morning coat	—	—	—	—	20.00
Outing coat	—	—	—	—	10.00
Sack coat	—	—	—	—	10.00
Overcoat	—	—	—	—	15.00
Pantaloon	—	—	—	—	10.00
Valet's coat	—	—	—	—	2.50

Cutters	5.00	6.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
First class	5.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	12.00
Second class	6.00	7.00	7.50	8.00	8.00
Shoemakers	3.00	4.00	4.50	4.50	4.50
Working at home	2.25	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.25
Shoe cutters	2.25	2.75	3.00	3.25	3.25
Saddle makers	2.00	2.50	2.75	3.00	3.25
Harness makers	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.25	4.25
Carriage trimmers	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.75	3.75
Sewers, machine work	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.75	3.75
Harness cutters	3.00	3.25	3.50	3.75	3.75
Cigar makers	2.00	2.50	2.75	3.00	3.25
Cigar packers	2.00	2.50	2.75	3.00	3.25
Glass setters	2.00	2.50	2.75	3.00	3.25
Mirror makers	4.00	4.50	4.75	5.00	5.25
Marble cutters	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75	1.75

Occupations	1886	1890	1892	1894	1896
Per day					
Marble polishers	1.50	1.50	1.50	2.25	2.25
Goldsmiths	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50	5.50
Bakers	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.50	5.50
Bakergood-class	2.75	3.25	3.50	3.50	3.50
Upolaters	5.00	6.00	5.50	5.50	5.50
Turners	2.50	2.85	3.00	3.00	3.50
Lathe operators	2.50	3.50	3.20	3.75	4.25
Candle makers	1.50	2.50	3.00	3.00	3.85
Metals work	2.50	2.50	3.00	3.00	3.85
Bronze	4.00	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.75
Do, in zinc	2.50	3.25	3.75	4.25	4.75
Do, in silver	1.50	2.50	3.00	3.50	4.25
Gunsmiths	2.25	3.25	3.75	3.75	4.25
Hatters	4.50	5.50	5.00	5.00	5.00
Basket and chair makers	2.00	2.50	2.50	3.00	3.50
Sail and awning makers	2.00	2.50	2.75	2.75	3.00
Candy makers	4.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.50
Paper hangers	2.00	2.50	2.75	3.25	4.00
Stone cutters	2.25	2.75	3.00	3.75	4.25
Regular	2.25	2.50	3.00	3.00	3.75
First-class	3.50	3.75	3.75	4.00	4.10
Regular	2.50	2.80	3.00	3.00	3.80
Bricklayers	2.50	2.85	3.25	3.75	4.10
Pattern makers, metal	6.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00
Pattern makers, wood	4.00	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Furniture makers	4.00	4.75	5.00	5.00	5.00
Pastry makers	4.00	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.00
Bread makers	2.25	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75
Do, ordinary	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
Decorators, house	7.00	8.00	8.00	10.00	10.00
Do, do, ordinary	6.00	6.50	7.50	7.50	7.75
Per 1,000 ems					
Typesetters	0.64	0.68	0.82	0.86	0.86
Newspapers	75.00	80.00	90.00	90.00	120.00
Book work	75.00	90.00	115.00	115.00	115.00
Book work	60.00	75.00	75.00	80.00	85.00
Designers and lithographers	95.00	157.50	182.00	165.00	180.00
Lithographic	85.00	120.00	120.00	145.00	145.00
Book work	55.00	77.00	97.00	107.00	125.50
Bookbinders	80.00	90.00	90.00	100.00	110.10
Per month					
House servants	30.00	40.00	45.00	45.00	45.00
Cooks, private residence	40.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Cooks, public residence	50.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00

Occupations	1886	1890	1892	1894	1896
Per day					
Ticket inspectors	2.82	3.09	3.78	3.92	3.92
Conductors	1.55	1.90	2.27	2.52	3.10
Drivers	1.25	1.50	1.75	1.85	2.00
Cleaners	1.21	1.55	1.71	1.85	2.00
Stable men	1.17	1.41	1.43	1.74	1.87
Do, also	1.25	1.50	1.75	1.85	2.00
Carpenters	2.15	2.38	2.46	2.82	3.28
Harness makers	2.84	2.45	2.59	2.89	3.40
Saddlers	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Teamsters	1.50	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
Plumbers and gas fitters	2.50	3.00	3.25	3.65	3.75
Plasterers	2.50	3.00	3.50	4.00	4.00
Labourers	1.50	1.80	2.00	2.00	2.50
Firemen, station	1.50	2.00	2.75	3.00	3.00
Engineers do do	2.00	3.00	3.25	3.50	4.00
Apprentices	0.85	0.59	0.50	0.50	0.60
Workmen					
Glove makers	1.50	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.25
Cap makers, machine work	2.50	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
Cap makers, hand work	1.00	1.25	1.35	1.45	1.50
Umbrella makers	1.25	2.25	2.50	2.50	2.50
Embroiders	2.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.75
Second-class	1.25	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Workmen, ordinary					

Occupations	1886	1890	1892	1894	1896
Per month					
House servants	30.00	40.00	45.00	45.00	45.00
Cooks, private residence	40.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Cooks, public residence	50.00	60.00	60.00	60.00	60.00

Railway employees. The following are the average wages paid here by the most prominent railway lines. These lines are owned and managed by English corporations represented here by a local general manager and an advisory board. On the national and provincial lines the system of sharing the loss or gain in the gold premium with certain classes of employees does not prevail, as it does with the English railways. On the national lines fixed salaries are paid. These have been less during the past two years than those here given, because the gold rate has been high during that time, thus making the earnings greater of the men who share in the gold premium.

Ten hours constitute a day's work for conductors, brakemen, switchmen, and telegraph operators; 11 hours in the summer and 8 1/2 in the winter for track labourers, section men, bridge tenders, and light keepers; 12 hours for station masters and station freight handlers; 9 1/2 hours for shop mechanics, oilers and cleaners, and 6 1/2 hours for clerks and accountants in the general offices of the different companies.

Locomotive engineers—

Per month	Per day
First class	\$150.00
Second class	140.00
Third class	130.00
Fourth class	115.00
Fifth class	100.00

Locomotive firemen—

Per month	Per day
First class	90.00
Second class	80.00
Third class	70.00
Fourth class	60.00

Plus half the premium on gold above rate of 140.

Conductors—

Passenger	\$65.00 to 75.00
Freight	60.00 to 65.00

Brakemen—

Passenger	50.00 to 60.00
Freight	45.00 to 55.00

Plus half the premium on gold above a rate of 180 until the premium reaches 340.

Accountants and clerks—

Telegraph operators	\$35.00 to 75.00
Station masters	50.00 to 200.00
Track inspectors	120.00 to 165.00

Plus half the premium on gold above a rate of 180 until the premium reaches 340.

Section foremen—

Switchmen	\$2.35 to \$3.00
Section men	2.00 to 3.00
Oilers	2.60 to 4.46
Cleaners	1.80 to 2.58
Freight handlers	1.60 to 2.50
Mechanics, round house	3.00 to 3.50

Per hour

Machinists, foremen	\$0.52 to \$0.68
Machinists	.29 to .52
Carpenters	.31 to .49
Painters	.29 to .49
Foundry men	.55 to .49

An idea can be formed from the above of the great labour of the Minister. The figures show plainly enough that one of the chief curses of an inconvertible currency is that it resolves itself into a terrible tax on the labouring man. We reserve for another chapter Mr. Buchanan's remarks on the price of commodities.

Before concluding we must congratulate the United States Government on having in these latitudes two such painstaking, indefatigable Ministers as Mr. Buchanan here, and Mr. Strobel in Chile; our readers may remember that not long ago we reviewed in these columns the latter's admirable report on the currency of Chile. These reports are a credit to the writers and to the Government that they represent.

MR. BUCHANAN'S REPORT.

In our last we reproduced Minister Buchanan's comparative table of wages in this country from 1886 to 1896, and our readers will have gathered that the depreciation of the currency has cut down wages all round, there being no case where the rise in wages has kept pace with the rise in the gold premium. In other words, inconvertibility is an infamous law on labor and is a terrible curse to the masses. Now we shall take up Minister Buchanan's chapter on the price of commodities during the decade; for the present we shall simply reproduce the Minister's statements, reserving our own remarks for a future issue.

PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

It will be readily understood that here, as in the United States, there is a wide variation in prices on almost everything that goes to make up what may be called the usual purchases of a family. There are stores and shops here, as there, selling nothing but the best class of articles; and others selling the poorest. In gathering the prices here given, I have avoided both, and have endeavored to secure the prices paid by the average workman or clerk's family. This statement as to difference in price does not, with equal force, apply to groceries or to other vegetables, meat, or bread, all of which cost more or less the same, whether bought by the family of the laborer or of the well-to-do.

Articles

1886	1890	1892	1894	1896
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House rent—

Great, per kilo	0.35	0.36	0.25	0.25	0.25
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Meat—

Roast, per kilo	0.15	0.15	0.25	0.30	0.35
Tender, per kilo	0.30	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45
Ordinary, per kilo	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25

Chicken, per pair 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 | 2.00 |

Butter, single 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |

Butter, per pair 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 |

Eggs, per dozen 0.80 | 0.80 | 0.80 | 0.80 | 0 |

ticularly if we bear in mind that the old Central Station, bad and incomplete as it was, came out costing \$75,000 gold per annum.

The Companies, in discussing the conditions with the Minister, proposed that the concession should last fifty years. The Minister, however, was of opinion that the concession should endure until the whole amount be paid off—which would reduce the term to 37 years.

Such briefly is the latest proposition for the solution of the Central Station Question. We may add that its acceptance is almost a foregone conclusion, as all the members of the Cabinet are in favor of the conditions expressed. We, for our part, examining the question from the standpoint of public advantage, cordially welcome the proposition which is an indication that both the Government and the Companies are anxious to consult the interests of the public. The resolute attitude of the Government leaves no room for doubt. On the 1st of June, if the rails between the Retiro and Casa Amarilla are not removed, the police will be stationed at those points and no train allowed to pass.

SOUTHWARD, HO!

ALONG THE GREAT SOUTHERN LINE.

(By our German Correspondent).

Bismarck said—"Lift Germany into the saddle and she will learn how to ride." The same applies to Argentina, whose saddle is British capital. England is not only loaned the capital, but the men also, and to measure the extent of such services one must take the Great Southern Railway as an instance and travel the length of its rails. To perform this journey you require leisure—say sixty hours, jumping from one train into another.

You can measure the progress of this republic by the growth of this railway. You have already published the working results of this colossal line, and the admirable speech of its chairman, Mr. F. Parish: so I shall not recapitulate, but let me say it requires the ability of such a manager as Mr. Barrow, assisted by such excellent lieutenants as Messrs. Gould and Gregory, to keep this gigantic enterprise in its present good working order. I may well compare it to a great chronometer of British make: Perfect machinery and perfect time.

The permanent way is fenced in on both sides by seven wires, and there is as great guarantee of safety to life and limb as on European lines. As to comfort in the passenger cars and sleeping saloons, with a mellowed experience of railway travelling, I can safely say that I prefer the Great Southern line to any in Europe, and this is no empty compliment.

Along the well-ballasted line, comfortably seated in the Restaurant Car, wondering at the travelling changes one witnesses in a life time in the Plata, from the "tropical," bullock-cart, "diligencia," to the present comfortable Pullman, we sped along to Mar del Plata. I had not visited the place for years and found great improvements. This sea-bathing resort has now over one thousand brick houses, of which 100 are chalets, and a population of 8000 souls. The old mole has been lengthened by 150 metres for the convenience of ships from B. Ayres. The Great Southern Railway has made Mar del Plata, and it remains with the Government to increase its importance by stimulating the fishery industry and start a settlement of hardy mariners who would turn out sailors for Argentina's fleet. The fish in Mar del Plata is delicious, and the Hotel Bristol is comfortable; its big dining-saloon is a feature, with accommodation for 500 people, and beautifully decorated. The gambling saloon was in full swing day and night; even ladies looked on and gambled till the early morning. I must confess that I never saw an Argentine lady in the roulette room.

As the trip to Mar del Plata is done by night I had no chance of inspecting the zone through which the railway runs, one of the richest in the country. I was glad, therefore, in my journey from the Argentine Brighton to Tandil to get a good view of the landscape. As we sped past Las Arenas we came in full view of the Castillo Basualdo, probably the largest and finest country-house in the Republic. My companions in the car told me that the chateau has 70 rooms, and that the inside arrangements are simply gorgeous. The lands on this estate, I remarked, were excellent, which partially accounts for the fame of the wool parcel from this estate.

Tandil! The old camp town revives the terrible murders committed by the Tata Dios in 1871. Who can forget the terrible impression that massacre produced in Buenos Aires? To-day Tandil is a splendid town, with all the creature comforts of Buenos Aires. Some of the hotels are equal to any in the capital. The connection of Tandil with the Danish settlement is well known. In 1850 the first Dane, Johann Fejel, settled here and started the Molino Viejo. Out of a population of 8000 in Tandil there are 1500 Danes, all doing well.

There are four mills in Tandil, one of which was taken over by Messrs. Bunge and Born at about one-third of its cost. Tandil tillage yields 15 fanegas of wheat per square. Land in this partido was sold the other day at \$3 50 p. r. hectare. The largest land owner is Mr. Santa Marina with four estates covering an area of 114 leagues—not to mention 60 more leagues he owns further south.

Camps from Tandil to Tres Arroyos looked good, but south of the latter district are but "midding." In a rainy season the latter lands may feed 5,000 sheep to the league, in dry not more than 2,000. From Juarez to Bahia Blanca you see the "tosca" projecting only too frequently.

Bahia Blanca was a revelation to me. On all sides you see the stamp of progress, in the wharf, the sheds, the numerous railway tracks, the hotels, the shops, the streets. Railway enterprise and British capital have made this place, and what a future it has in store with its net of railways running to the North to Buenos Aires, to the North-East to Tres Arroyos, Tandil, to the West to Neuquen, to the North-West to Toay, and thence in the natural order of things to Villa Mercedes and to Mendoza! On all sides you can hear English spoken—study the echo!

THE TELEGRAPH EMBROGLIO.

The following particulars are taken from authentic documents which are at your disposal for inspection, should you deem this necessary to verify my figures. With reference to the Reserve Fund, in the Report of this Company for the year 1896 (a copy of which I hold) I find that the Revenue Funds are £17,932, 3s. 2d., equal more or less to \$90,000 gold and not \$4,000,000 gold as you erroneously state in your paper, and far from being in a prosperous position the £15 nominal shares of the Company are quoted to-day at £7. 15s.

For many years the Company did not pay any dividend and has paid as follows from the year 1893:

For 1894..... 3 %
For 1895..... 3 %
For 1896..... 2 % per annum

With regard to the transit rate which the Brazilian Government charges, it is ten centimes gold per word, not ten cents gold as you also state in the above mentioned article. I suppose it is not necessary for me to say that the ten centimes is equally to two cents (2 cents) gold, and I may point out at the same time that the Company does not overcharge the public, as the fact that the Tariffs for messages via the Atlantic are the same as those published by the Galveston Line show. These mistakes are calculated to create a false impression.

I hope you will kindly find room for the above. Thanking you, I enclose my card and beg to remain yours sincerely,
W. S.

UTOPIA, LIMITED.

IN LIQUIDATION.

All the assets of New Australia have now been distributed, and the Paraguayan Government appointed the 24th ult. as the date on which a new contract was to be signed. This will make the affair a Government colony, although the administrator will be one of themselves.

Out of some 470 individuals who went up to found this new Utopia about 100 remain; some are cultivating coffee and cotton, others are devoting themselves to cattle raising.

As all the property was held in common the division among the 73 shareholders was rather a complex and curious arrangement. The cattle, for example, were branded in 78 equal lots and drawn for, after which the axes, mattocks, spades, etc. were put into similar heaps and distributed. Fences, houses, ploughs, waggons, etc. were then valuated, and auction sales were held if two or more shareholders applied for the same lots.

It was a rather melancholy exhibition, and as inquiries are frequently made as to why the colony was established and what contributed to its failure, a brief history will perhaps be interesting to some of our readers.

Australia in the year '91 was divided into two hostile camps. A series of labour struggles had embittered the capitalist and the labourer against each other; wages were falling everywhere, and when the idea of the establishment of a huge co-operative colony was suggested, it seemed to meet with universal approval among the shepherds and hired labourers in the back blocks of the Continent. Various sites were spoken of and discussed, but owing to the bitter political feeling engendered at that time, it was thought that the new colony would have little chance if established in Australia so agents were sent to South America, to Brazil, Argentina, and Paraguay, and the choice fell on the latter country.

It must not be forgotten when all the disadvantages of Paraguay are taken into consideration, that the original idea was not so much an agricultural colony, but a place where the colonists would be able to produce as much as possible for themselves. The ideal aimed at was an absolutely self-supporting state, where ten or twenty thousand people could live for and by themselves—not at once perhaps, but in the near future. Exchange in products was only a secondary consideration.

Some four or five thousand members were enrolled in Australia and over £20,000 subscribed to the movement. A sailing vessel was purchased and fitted out and two trips were made to Montevideo. It is one thing, however, to project an ideal state, but quite another to enrol people fitted to populate such a place. Most of the citizens enrolled had their own ideas, and they were not backward in expressing them either. From the taming of a bullock to the building of a house it was all the same, each had his own plan; but that wasn't all. The chairman of the concern held very strong views on the ideal life to be led, but a majority of the folks organized were entirely out of touch with him, and it was soon seen a break down or a modification would have to take place.

The leader first of all tried heroic measures, and, being the legal intendant of the colony, expelled three members. This led to over 80 souls withdrawing, which was, to say the least, a bad beginning, and caused a lot of ill-feeling and newspaper criticism.

When a second batch of immigrants arrived from Australia further differences were engendered, so the leader himself with 60 loyal followers withdrew, and established another colony some 80 miles distant. A colony, by the way, which is now progressing in a very satisfactory manner, but this, as a popular author is fond of saying, is another story.

The very essence of working co-operation is mutual good will, and for a few months all went well with a new Committee, but the people themselves had not got in them to bear and forbore one with another; they had neither the religious element of the old Pilgrim Fathers nor the fanaticism of fervent political reformers.

The secretary of the colony, writing to an Australian paper at that time, pointed out that where Jack is not only as good as his master, but has thrown "master-ship" away entirely, it is absolutely necessary that the said Jack should possess all the virtues, and so exercise them that every other Jack in his compound should have "his Jills," and they must so order themselves, their activities and social relationships, "as not to make any breach of continuity in the general progress towards good and goods. The mere statement of this problem is enough to prove that it cannot be solved by a mixed community. Carrying water in a sieve, twisting ropes of sand, boxing a

bag of flour, are exhilarating pastimes compared with the successful administration of a New Australia. Imagine the position of the Director charged to execute the will of the Board of Management when it, after nights and days of tongue-fence and brain-engelling, has arrived at a "resolution." To give an "order," except on the store for jam, would be an atrocity in this free community. A "recommendation," a "request," a "suggestion" delicately implied rather than made these are his privileges. The acting upon them is at the option of the brother whom they are made. If not exactly to his mind, his comments are frequent and free, his action capricious. The response may be—often is—prompt and cheerful, on the other hand it may be in the form of a recommendation to a country even hotter than Paraguay. If the latter, your Director (2) has to go somewhere else with his gentle insinuations and they meet with favour. After he has carefully planned the details of a number of different jobs (all necessary), so that they dovetail beautifully, a few experiences of this kind are somewhat disheartening.

Various "reforms" were suggested, but as it required a two-thirds majority to alter the constitution, nothing was done: things drifted on and men drifted away. Of course there were a good number of colonists on the ground who understood the work they were engaged in and its social significance, but they were powerless to stem the tide. The industries engaged in were mostly the production of foods—cotton, manioc, sugar were laid down, but not in large areas. The wheat crop was a failure for two years in succession, and the English potato crop was only a partial success; yet, taking the crops all round there was little need to grumble at the productivity of the soil or the geniality of the climate. Still the colony gradually declined.

By the terms of the original contract the colony held temporary titles for some 80 leagues of land. If at the end of six years, twelve families per league had not been introduced and settled in Paraguay, this land would again revert to the Government. Three years elapsed, and then the Paraguayan Government proposed that as the colonists were neither progressive nor contented under a co-operative "regime" each should have been handed to him an equal share in the property. That they on their part would give each adult male 60 squares of land, and donate six leagues of grazing land to be held as common property. Further, if desired, they would give 800 dollars a month subsidy till the new colony was on its feet, and only permit English-speaking folks to take up their residence there.

Such, in brief, is the history of the rise and fall of the new Utopia. Whether the colonists who still cling to the ideal—and the 60 squares—are able and strong enough to revive the idea which underlies New Australia, time alone will tell. One thing must not be lost sight of; from a social point of view New Australia proves nothing. The colony was organized and formed another colony are progressing very satisfactorily. Perhaps, it is a case of "many are called, but few are chosen."

THE RURAL SOCIETY

OUR THREATENED FLOCKS AND HERDS

The following most important petition has been addressed to the National Finance Minister by the President of the above Society.

Buenos Aires, May 9th.
Venecio Escalante, Most Excellent Sir.

The Rural Society is continually in receipt of letters from at home and abroad, railing its attention to the great danger the live stock of the country runs, if steps be not taken to prevent the importation of infectious diseases. Newspapers recently received from England publish articles, which have been reproduced in the Argentine Press, calling on this Society to use its influence with Y.E. that steps may be taken to prevent the importation of Foot and Mouth Disease.

The danger of the importation of this pest is so great that the British Government has prohibited the importation of animals from the countries where it exists—France, Germany, Russia, Denmark, Holland and many others, which can no longer send their stock to the English market. In South America, Brazil is included in the prohibition, which is enforced so strictly that several cargoes of live-stock from Argentina to Liverpool could not be landed, as the steamers had called at Rio Janeiro.

Under such circumstances and the danger that the British Government may at any moment close its ports to live-stock from this country for the single reason that we take no steps to prevent the importation of this terrible disease, the Rural Society has devoted much thought to the matter, and, after hearing the opinion of a Special Commission appointed to enquire into it, I have decided to address Y.E. and beg of you to at once ask Congress to vote the Bill which this Society has already laid before it.

Every day that passes, the necessity for this Bill becomes more urgent, as with all our means we are defenceless against the numerous diseases that make such havoc in the flocks and herds of Europe, but from which ours are still free.

Pneumonia, tuberculosis, apthoid fever, rinderpest, and many other endemic diseases there, can be introduced here in the live stock imported, as there is no law to prevent it, nor means of discovering if the animals are attacked by it. Until such Bill be passed, and as we are threatened with the importation of apthoid fever, which would close English ports against us, the Rural Society considers that it is urgent to take precautionary steps against all infected countries. I send you on a separate sheet the names of said countries, and beg Y.E. to order measures to be taken to prevent the importation of the plague, and its propagation, if it should gain entry to our ports. The Rural Society begs to suggest to Y.E. the following steps.

1st—Declare the Madero Port the only one at which imported cattle can be landed.
2nd—Have an isolated Lazaretto for all animals from those countries where the British Government declares apthoid fever to exist.

3rd—Submit all animals that arrive in vessels on which animals have died during the voyage to 15 days quarantine, and only to sanitary inspection if there has been no death for 15 days after shipment.
4th—Prohibition to land animals in ships from infected ports, until 40 days after their sailing from said ports.

I have the honour, etc.,
J. Pueyredon,
President.
J. Freyre,
Secs.

THE RIVER PLATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY

(Continued)

The *Diario* continues firm in its attitude against the closing of the River Plate Telegraph Co's offices, and furnishes the public with the true inwardness of the case in an interesting article in its first issue yesterday which in view of the recent misstatements of *La Prensa*, has a double value, and clears the R.P.T. Co. of all responsibility. It reads as follows:

We have already demonstrated in our first edition of 29th ult., that the complaint and arbitrary action against the Compañia Telegrafica del Rio de la Plata was, we feared, lamentably misapplied; that whereas the Western and Brazilian Telegraph Co. is accused, and the Compañia Telegrafica del Rio de la Plata practically exonerated, by the C. and S.A. Co. New York, before the Bureau International de Berne in 1895, the R.P.T. Co. is, on the other hand, exclusively accused before the Argentine authorities by the C. and S.A. Co. B. Aires in 1896.

We have thus two procedures diametrically opposed to each other. In Europe the W. and B.T. Co. acknowledges its responsibility, makes its defence, and Berne recommends arbitration. In Argentina the R.P.T. Co. disclaims all participation in the matter, and their offices are summarily closed by the Argentine authorities.

The following are extracts from the defence of the W. and B.T. Co. before the Bureau International de Berne with which we promised to furnish our readers.

"The Central and South American Telegraph Co. in their letter appear to have conveyed to the Berne Bureau the impression that the action of this Company had prevented that Company from equalising rates by their route for messages between Europe and South America via New York and Valparaiso, thus discriminating against senders of messages. This however is not the case, and the following statement will place the Berne Bureau in possession of the facts.

After reviewing the history of the surcharge to Chili and Peru by the Central and South American Co. against telegrams from Europe via Lisbon, and the same on telegrams from Europe to Brazil via Galveston the Western continues.

"In neither of these cases, however, did the operation 're-impossible' legalisation of telegrams, because as a fact the same uniform tariffs have been actually charged to the public and consequently the rates 'equalized' the only difference it has made has been the company, or route concerned, has had to bear the 'extra' paid out," and, therefore, the only result has been that it encashes a diminished net receipt; this, therefore, has not interfered with the sending of messages. Various senders of messages, who have touched the company, has made no appeal to the Berne Bureau, because it has always understood that the cable lines under notice, as well as the North American Cable lines, although observing the rules and regulations of the convention as far as they could were non-adherents greatly on account of these very lively competing lines and that, when attacked, each company must defend itself as it best could.

If the rules and regulations of the convention could all be applied to these non-adherent undertakings, no doubt the protective clauses as to non-competition in rates and so on would be enforced as well as the other clauses.

This Company has amplified its observation in order to afford the Berne Bureau information upon the very dissimilar position of companies, lines and state lines, the former open to attack upon all points by new lines bound to nothing, restrained by almost no consideration and created and opened for the very purpose of the competition deprecated under clause XXVII of the convention rules and regulations.

We think these facts will suffice to show you that the effect of the Central Coy to procure the Berne Bureau to increase its net receipts against the very course which itself originally introduced deserves no sympathy.

This document is of a great importance in this question because it shows clearly that the W. and B. Co. not only admits that the special tariff complained of, is collected exclusively by it, but also that it has plausible reasons in defence of its position, at least the company makes it evident that in no way does its special rate effect the senders of messages in Europe etc., to Brazil. Much less does it affect the interests public of the Argentina." These dispositions are simply safeguards between two competing lines between North American and English shareholders, the English are disposed (not forced) to accept arbitration, the Americans do not care for this way of settling differences, but carrying the case to the Argentine Authorities recommended the employment of force against one of the intermediate and independent Companies.

It is to be wondered at, that this could be carried into effect in the light of the XIX Century, and that forced vigilance continues to be exercised by Government officials at the offices of the River Plate Telegraph Co. precluded even the testing of the cables of the Company to Montevideo.

MONTEVIDEO.

PRESIDENT BORDA AND THE "STANDARD."

THE BANCO DE LA REPUBLICA.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Montevideo, May 10th.
Considerable surprise has been excited by a statement in your "on Change" column to the effect that there is not a cent of European capital in the Bank of the Republic as it was started on a million of consolidated bonds which will ultimately have to be pawned off on the

local market. Referring to this paragraph, the President made to me the following statement: "Tell the *STANDARD* that it has been misinformed. The money for the Bank of the Republic came out here in part cash and, as the bank building was not ready to receive it when it arrived, it was deposited in the vaults of the London Bank, and part of the capital was obtained by drafts on London negotiated at a very good rate. The Bank has never had more than \$600,000 worth of the consolidated bonds and they are perfectly negotiable, did we desire to turn them into cash. Furthermore no step whatever has been taken towards placing the four million war loan, either through the Bank of the Republic or through Glyn, Mills, Currie and Co., such a step may be taken later should we find it advisable; but at present the loan has not yet been voted by the Senate and consequently it is not authorized."

You will remember that when the correspondent of the *Financial News* was here in part cash and, as the bank building was not ready to receive it when it arrived, it was deposited in the vaults of the Bank and shown the gold.

At the time when I saw the President at his house, two o'clock, there had come no news of any engagement between the Lamas and the government forces. It is thought that the heavy rains fallen lately will interfere with the movements of the troops by causing the streams to overflow.

Have made further investigations in regard to Bank of the Republic. A prominent financier, representative of a great English bank and whose business is to keep himself perfectly "au courant" with all that goes on in this market, tells me that the sum in Consolidated Bonds held by bank amounts to only 450,000, and that these bonds represent judicial deposits of which 80 % must, by-law and according to charter of bank, be invested and held in these consolidated bonds. Furthermore, far from emptying the bank, Government has not even used all or the million credit which charter of bank allows it. It has paid war expenses, so far, out of the tobacco tax and proceeds of extra 2 % import duties, and has on hand a large part of gold represented in market by the treasury notes.

This afternoon I wired you the facts in regard to Bank of Republic. Since then I have spoken with several persons, "in the know," and all are surprised at such a statement appearing in *STANDARD* in contradiction to its statements in preceding numbers.

For the past two days General Muñoz, Commander of Canelones division, is encamped near Salto Ramon. The authorities of Uruguayana have seized twelve cases of ammunition destined for the rebels forwarded to this country, a quantity of linen and clothes and \$320 in cash for the wounded in the civil war. General Muñoz has disbanded five hundred of his troops to permit them to return to their agricultural labors. Saravia has appointed Acevedo Diaz, accountant of rebel forces, reported to be in Concordia. General Vasquez has proposed to the E.P. the formation of a brigade of cavalry, four thousand strong, to be composed of the first, second, third and fourth divisions of central Departments.

Minister Frias in his own name, and in name of General Tajes, begs the local press to contradict the statement that he had received official telegrams announcing the defeat of Villar by Lamas. The French steamer Pampa has brought two more batteries of cannon which have been taken to artillery barracks.

The manoeuvres and a mock combat were carried out yesterday in spite of the bad weather. The urban battalion, the brigade of public safety and various police battalions took part. The manoeuvres were witnessed by President and Ministers of War and Government and about three hundred distinguished spectators, comprising Congressmen and officers. The precision of the movements of the different troops engaged excited admiration of spectators. The simulated conflict finished with a lunch provided by Monsierr Pascual who was present dressed as a gaucho. In the mock combat 20,000 blank cartridges were fired.

Yesterday's bad weather caused postponement of the football match between the Albion Club and combined English fleet.

To-morrow the President offers a banquet in his private residence to Sr. Santa Cruz the departing Chilean Minister.

As usual General Tajes is reported as about to return this week. The extraordinary envoy seems to be enjoying his stay in your city and to be loath to leave; but he has done excellent service to his Government during his stay.

There is no fresh news from seat of war, the continued rain preventing any movement of forces.

Stand-by-O'Gorman.

THE SUGAR QUESTION

May 11th
A meeting of sugar makers took place on Saturday last to discuss and take into consideration the project for an arrangement between them and the Sugar Trust. Amongst those present we noticed the following: Messrs Mauricio Mayer, Manuel Garcia Fernandez, Otto Bomberg, Vicente L. Gallo, Ambrosio Romero, Ambrosio C. Nogues, Francisco Bustamante, Simon Chavanne, Clodomiro Ledesma, Pedro C. Mendez, Francisco Bolla, Juan Videla, Juan Posse, and Ricardo Day. Business began by the reading of the project in which it is proposed that the Sugar Trust be reconstituted, and that sugar makers who are not members of the Trust be admitted.

The Sugar Trust will, according to the new project, receive all the sugar crop of 1897-98, and will advance money in payments at 4, 8, and 12 months in sums varying from \$2.25 to \$2.50 per ten kilos of 1st class sugar, 90% not under, or powdered sugar. This advance is fixed, that is to say, that if the Sugar Trust realizes at a loss, it cannot fall back on the producer to recoup.

Each sugar producer shall take \$20 in shares of the Sugar Trust for every thousand kilos of sugar.

On the winding up of the Trust, the capital will be returned to the shareholders plus 5% interest to start from the date on which they made their payments to the society. The surplus will be distributed amongst the producers according to the quantity of sugar sold to the Trust.

The maximum production of sugar will be limited to 120,000 tons per year, the quantity to be produced by each manufacturer to be fixed by special committee. The Sugar Trust will export all the sugar it receives, with the exception of 20,000 tons which will remain as a stock until the liquidating of the society in 1899. The manufacturers who produce over the quantity fixed for each of them by the committee, will have to give it to the Trust in order that the Society may export it, but without charging them a commission. The Sugar Trust enters the new Society with the balance already published as a basis. The above project was unanimously accepted, and a committee was then appointed to draw up the final project, or in other words to frame the contract between Sugar makers and the present Trust.

SOCIAL.

The first subscription Dance in Prince George's Hall on Wednesday night will open the season of this great Diamond Jubilee year. Never before has the subscription list been so quickly filled. The indefatigable Secretary, Mr. Woodgate, is overwhelmed with applications, and is busy day and night answering would-be subscribers. The list is closed for the 1897 series of dances: disappointed applicants must direct their attention to the other dances, several of which are already in hand. It promises to be a year of "bailes," and the one on Wednesday night will be a fitting opening. We thought that last year's Committee had exhausted their resources in the variety of decorations. So far as we can recollect, no two dances were the same in that respect. But we learn on good authority that the dance on the 19th will embrace several novelties, as much in decorative effect as in the programme, and this will be but a prelude to what the Committee has in store for the winter season.

With regard to Prince George's Hall itself, we had lately occasion to see what the Committee has been doing during the past summer months, when the votaries of Terpsichore were "pas-de-quatre-ing" at Cosquin or Mar del Plata. The splendid floor has been carefully revised, and the sixty odd springs given more play, so that the whole surface now yields like a sheet of ice. The smoking room has been comfortably furnished, though not too much so, the arm chairs round the fire are limited, and reserved for the husbands of chaperons. The new exit from the Ladies' Cloak Room direct to the tea room is a great improvement and will enable little parties to make up their programmes there, instead of in the crowded vestibule or at the doors of the hall room. In other respects every effort seems to have been made to meet the wishes of the Musical and Dramatic Societies. The polished floor in itself was enough to make the slightest noise reverberate during a performance, it is evident that the acoustics of the Hall were at a disadvantage last year. A carpet, expressly manufactured in England, will now cover the whole floor, and with silence in the body of the hall the stage may have a chance. The assistance of several experts has enabled the Directors to thoroughly test the acoustics, and making allowance for the size of the Hall—larger than most people are aware of—the correctives introduced are likely to make the Hall more popular for Concerts and Dramatic performance than any other locale in the city.

RAILWAY ITEMS.

The Central Station scandal is getting into more indignant swing every day, and the idea of a petition to Congress against the arbitrary and barbarous action of the Government in prohibiting the Companies to erect temporary shelter for their passengers is gaining ground. Mr. Carlos Vagstad writes to the *Tiempo* that the whole course of the Government in the matter is quite illegal under the terms of the original concession to the Northern Railway Company.

Telegrams received from London announce that the Boards of the Railways which run into the Central Station have agreed to lend Government the money for building the Station. There is every certainty the Government will accept the offer as the cash will be lent on easy terms of payment. The Government on the other hand, has refused to listen to the protest against the order, prohibiting the running of trains from Casa Amarilla to Central Station and from Retiro to the Central Station from the 1st of next month.

Mr. Enrique Robinson has asked Congress for authorization to construct a line from Venado Tuerto to Rufino.

We have to correct an inadvertent mistake that appeared in a recent issue in reproducing Entre Rios advice. It was stated that the charcoal industry was crushed by monstrous railway freights, which is not correct, at the principal cause of decline is the severe competition. Of course, the producers always fall foul of the railways. If they had their wares carried free of charge, they would probably want a bounty.

The reported arrangement of the Government with the railway companies for construction of the new Central Station has caused a very favorable impression in the market, since so long as the Government held on to its expressed intention of doing the job itself, there was little prospect of a start ever being made. Then again the Government's resources are not so plentiful as to admit of much testing as to elasticity, so that for various reasons of moment such an arrangement as would take the business off its hands on reasonable terms is to be hailed with satisfaction. Mr. White on behalf of the several companies proposes to do the business for about 3 millions of gold dollars, which would be raised on bonds bearing 4% interest and 1% amortization, thus making an annual service of \$150,000 gold. The Government estimated the cost at 4 millions gold, but we understand is favorably disposed towards the proposal, always reserving right of expropriation, or to increase the rate of amortization. The main point is that the station is almost a vital necessity, and the Executive should make as little delay as possible in taking final steps.

HORSES FOR BRITISH ARMY.

May 12th.
The dear old Rural Society takes a great interest in Colonel Trueman's mission to buy Argentine horses for the British army, and calls on all breeders and others interested and all the members of the Society, to let it know the number of horses they have for sale, and the prices they expect to get for the animals. Col. Trueman, Major Woods and Capt. Peters accompanied by Mr. Thomas Murray, the well known importer of fine stock and tobacco, left on Tuesday for the Curumalan estate whither they go to inspect the colts. They will also have a look round the estancias in the neighbourhood. Mr. Barrow courteously placed a carriage at the disposal of our visitors and indeed all the railway companies have paid them the same compliment. Mr. Murray during the stay of the commission in this country will act as their "cicerone" and will make all the purchases they may make of colts and horses for the Cape. The commission is to be congratulated on having secured the services of Mr. Murray who combines all the qualities requisite for a pleasant travelling companion, possesses a thorough knowledge of the country, and has also a pretty taste in horses. Col. Trueman, the Argentine estate Col. Trueman will find excellent samples of what the Republic can produce in abundance, and we doubt not that he will be able to pick up there several hundred animals with which to start the first ship-load.

May, 14th 1897.
Thursday was a red letter day at Curumalan, on account of the visit of the British Officers forming the commission sent to this country for the purpose of buying horses for the British Government. The party, consisting of Colonel Trueman, Major Wood, Captain Peters and two Veterinary Surgeons, accompanied by Mr. Murray their general agent, arrived by the mid-day train in a special carriage under the care of Mr. Miles G. Pasman, President of the Curumalan Society, and were welcomed at the house by Mr. Smith, the Manager, and his wife, who is well known to be the most charming hostess in the Province of Buenos Ayres. After lunch the party rode to the mountains to inspect the potros, but owing to the great demand both by this Government and by the Police on the Curumalan 5 year-olds, the number of these was somewhat limited, the best having been picked out; nevertheless a good few of them were purchased.

LIVE-STOCK DISEASE.

Not very long ago we called the attention of the market and the authorities to the paramount necessity of taking immediate and effective measures to avert the possibility of diseased stock being imported into this country. It is needless to remark on the great difficulty of ever coping with a disease, except by prevention. The enormous herds allowed the run of vast tracts, and scarcely handled at all, are argument sufficient, when it is considered that alarm is so sensibly rife in England and France, where the herds being so much smaller in number of head, and contact so much more easily restricted, the danger of an epidemic is not nearly so menacing as here. What would Argentina be without its herds and flocks? Yet there is absolutely no regulation, law or supervision to prevent disease from entering, and when domiciled, spreading, ravaging and desolating. We cordially endorse Dr. Pueyrredon's appeal to the Government for immediate action. As a prominent estanciero, as well as President of the Rural Society, Dr. Pueyrredon is vitally interested in the question. It is not a question to palter with either. Immediate and radical measures are absolutely and imperiously requisite. As a positive matter of fact, we see that in England a Royal Commission has been named to inquire into the prevalence of, and best means of dealing with tuberculosis in cattle. This in England, where all live stock interests are so rigidly looked after, protected and fostered means much, and it will surprise not a few of our readers to learn that the herd owners there object strenuously to the test of tuberculin until measures have been taken to compensate possible losses from slaughter of animals found with the disease, which is almost a frank admission that the disease is prevalent, or at least apprehended to be. Furthermore, Lord Brougham, President of the Shortland Society, has been informed by French Cattle-Breeders Association that measures should be taken to detect disease before sale, if English owners wish to keep open to them the French market, this ominous declaration being amply warranted by the fact that the Prize Bull Duke of York 14th, sold by Mr. Mills to a French syndicate, had to be destroyed after application of the Tuberculin test. Lord Polwarth's gold medal bull Nonsuch had also to be slaughtered in same way, as the test is rigorously enforced in France. No wonder, with such experiences, English breeders are reluctant to submit voluntarily to the test till legislation has taken precedence, but that the latter is certain is pre-shadowed in the nomination of the Commission. The *Mark Lane Express* furthermore hints that the application of the test will show reaction in more instances than those of short horns and that undoubtedly too much in-breeding is one of the primary causes of the disease. In face of all this candid admission and the enormous imports of English Stock, is it not time for the Government here to take action in the matter? The present state of affairs is absolutely pregnant with danger.

THE WATER WORKS.

Government has accepted the substitution of the sum of \$178,506 gold, it admits to be due to Mr. John B. Medici for Bonds lodged in the Bank of England, as guarantee for the service of accounts in arrears. This sum is equivalent to \$216,833 gold in Salubrité Works Bonds at 50, plus \$36,680 in said Bonds, or a total of \$253,513 gold in Bonds and interest due (\$36,680), as the rest belongs to the Government. The above amount being returned to Mr. Medici, leaves a balance from his present deposit of \$178,506 gold, plus \$165,116 gold, in Bonds deposited. The Salubrité Commissioners will liquidate the amounts due on accounts in arrears, in accordance with the decision of the Courts.

PROVINCES.

Arrives from Mendoza report that the Provincial Bank has given \$20,000 to defray the cost of building an hospital between the Western and Farallan canals. The Great Western Railway has donated \$10,000 for the same purpose, whilst many Societies have contributed large sums also. The plans for the hospital have already been sent to the Committee for approval. It is estimated that the total cost of the hospital will be \$400,000. The Mendoza Government has issued a decree organising the Board of the Drainage Works. Dr. Ventura Gallegos has been appointed President of the Board.

Latest advices from Parana report over 200,000 hectares of land there are ready for sowing wheat, while the area ready for linseed is between 46 and 47,000 hectares. Still in some departments agriculture is completely neglected owing to repeated bad harvests. Others on the other hand are developing rapidly. Esperanza Colony is a striking example of a go-ahead district in the wheat and linseed line.

Paysandu's camp districts are very badly off just now for saddles, bits and bridles, stirrups and ready-made clothes around ad to fit all comers like kid gloves, as the shopkeepers who sell those articles there have sent all their stocks to Montevideo for safety, fearing that they might come to grief from the number of "matrons" prowling round there.

A gentleman, arrived on Thursday from E. Rios, reports the first flight of locusts of the season already showing there. And he does not think that the early frost of winter will send them back either, as they take quarters in the famous Montes de Montiel till the atmospheric conditions are quite to their liking. This, of course, is mere supposition, but at all events the news is not auspicious.

Dr. Janchi, a well known colonist of Santa Fé, has just returned from General Acha. He describes the camp around that department as very suitable for agriculture, although the soil is not of the very best, inasmuch as it is sandy. Dr. Janchi came across fine pieces of camp, situated between Acha and Epu-Pel. These lands are, he states, first rate for the cultivation of wheat and maize. The valley of Acha has also good lands, although many parts of the soil contain sand and nitrate. Dr. Janchi thinks that the railway which will shortly cut through that district will be the best means of colonizing General Acha. Linseed, cáñamo, turnip and mustard seed would all flourish and give the colonist a good return for his labour, whilst alfalfa might also be cultivated, as in Rio Cuarto.

The cattle in Torcora Arriba, in Cordoba, are suffering terribly from "tristeza", and the drought has reduced steers and cows to mere skeletons. The colonists in Juarez Gelman are actively preparing to plough their land, which will be ready to receive seed before winter properly sets in.

Advices from Rioja are depressing. The canals are being pushed ahead steadily, but there is a general growl over the slow progress of the railway works, especially in Chilecito, where the people are apprehensive of further postponement. The Government is reported fearfully hard up, and business paralyzed.

Paraguay is never behind the times in financial novelties. Just imagine, the latest move of the Government there is to regulate the premium on gold by starting a Caja de Conversion, the principal function of which will be to buy gold, not in accordance with requirements, but as the movement of the quotation may dictate the advisability of leverage or need of depression. It will be interesting to watch the outcome of the experiment. As a novelty it is simply startling.

There was much discussion on Saturday in the hall over the laws of the locusts in Entre Rios, which we gave a few days ago, and which is confirmed by our colleague *La Nacion*, whose correspondent in the Mesopotamia announces a "league manga" already settling down there. It is a very early start for the omnivorous pest, and much will depend on how the winter comes in, as a couple of severe frosts will send them North again. It is needless to say, however, that people are alarmed at hearing of them, and in such numbers.

FINANCIAL.

Excessive taxation always brings its own punishment, and the brains and dodges of the "contrabandistas" are superior to all the precautions of the Custom House. There is a monstrous home tax of 50 cents per ten kilos on Argentine yerba, grown in Misiones, so the growers simply send it to Brazil or Paraguay, and it comes back as foreign yerba, paying only 15 cents gold per ten kilos. A very simple operation; but the difference between the two taxes cannot leave a very extravagant profit.

With regard to discounts it is hinted that the banks are keeping a very tight hand even with their customers, which is very wide of the truth. It is not to be supposed that the banks would be so short-sighted, with business so stagnant and commerce in a critical position, as to pull short up and refuse their clients. It would not only be short sighted and impolitic, it would be positively dangerous; and if there is one man more than another able to steer clear of the danger shoals it is the bank manager. At the same time we are in a position to state that the report is devoid of all foundation. The managers have to take their precautions like the importing merchant, the wholesale trader and the retail man, but these precautions do not mean a wholesale restriction of credit. The banks are giving their clients all the latter require.

There are already very ominous rumours afloat now in the air, which will undoubtedly take a more menacing shape as the cry for help from the agricultural districts gathers volume. The colonists of the Department of Las Colonias, Santa Fé, are the thin end of the wedge. Alleging that the measures passed by Congress last session for the relief of agriculture have not given, and are not

likely to give, any practical result, they boldly take the bull by the horns and petition for a grant of 2 millions of shillings to get them, and we hear further that various sporadic efforts to set an omission move afoot in Congress have fallen quite blank, which is the very best of news. It would be useless to deny that the market, in spite of all reassurances, is terribly afraid of Congress taking a hand in the matter, so that the rebuff suffered by the omission people is very opportune.

For utter, thorough improvidence recommend us to Tucuman, the garden of the Republic, veritable prodigal son in all his failings and before repentance has set in. The latest news from the "flavor of the flock" is that the Chambers have authorized the raising of a paltry loan of \$20,000 at 18% per annum, which smacks of bankruptcy, sweet and simple, intended as it is to defray the salaries of the Government employees in arrears. Yet the province footed a bill for \$70,000 more or less for Governor Cordoba's hotel expenses in B.Aires, and voted with refreshing coolness \$250,000 for parliamentary salaries. What does all this mean. Inability to pay a paltry \$20,000 and voting thousands in needless extravagance. There is no province that knocks so incessantly at the Treasury door as Tucuman, and ever with good results, but in the face of this it is about time for the porter to turn a deaf ear.

INSURANCE.

La Nacional Insurance Company is calling on the shareholders for another quota of 10% to be paid before the 28th instant.

We are glad to hail the reappearance of the New York Life again in our midst. It was a source of regret that the bias against Foreign Life Assurance in Congress should have driven out the New York Standard and Equitable, so that it is with pleasure we notice the return of the first. Perhaps this will induce the Standard and Equitable to follow suit. In another column we publish the notice of the company.

Although it is a very general cry with Insurance agents that times are hard and money hard to make, the business is not gone to the dogs yet as Mr. Almiraty Lasalle, who has just arrived back from a run through Cordoba and Tucuman, says he booked over \$800,000 in policies and got the premium money down on the nail too. All this business we understand is for the Peruvian Company, a native concern once in the throes of dissolution but now under Mr. Casares' able management enjoying a very high repute.

The well known Insurance Company "La Sud Americana" has opened a section for the insurance against breakage of windows, Plate Glass, engraved glasses, looking glasses, etc. The Company's office is in Calle Cangallo 453.

MARKETS.

May 15th.
Consignees report the produce markets very dull. There is next to nothing doing, very little wool or cereals coming in, which looks as if we had come to the end both of wool, wheat, and maize. The sales of wool barely run to about 100 tons a day, and buyers are not eager about pushing business. Maize, they say, may keep on for some time, but the wheat is evidently exhausted, anything that remains being hardly sufficient for the consumption. The millers are pretty well stocked, so that on the whole there is not likely to be any revival or change in the conditions.

NATIONAL CEDULAS.

We have frequently called attention to the fact of the National Cédulas being in brisk demand when everything else was weak and dull. This would seem to indicate purchases for foreign account, and it should be borne in mind that every year capital is put to good investment in this way, the gold being sold with the premium high and the Cédulas bought, which return a fair interest, the operation being reversed when the conditions are favorable, thus leaving a handsome margin of profit both on the stock and metal. It is suggested by some shrewd heads that this operation is now being repeated. The difficulty is that there are no National Cédulas to buy, or at least few, but as the new issue should shortly be out, as also the new Municipal Bonds, there will thus be no lack of securities. The question is, will the operators take kindly to the Distress Cédulas and absorb the bonds with the Lord Mayor's "brulote" still fresh and green in their memory. Perhaps so but it is open to doubt.

COURTS.

The agony list continues to grow. In addition to two or three minor failures of insignificant importance we have to report another big "break" in the mayoral line, the firm being Costa Motto and Co. of Calle Callao 11 and 15, wholesale grocers, who have applied for a moratorium, alleging inability to collect large outstanding and pointing out that though over 20 years established in the market they have never hitherto been unable to face all their obligations punctually on maturity. The assets are returned at \$855,495 and the liabilities \$797,228. The judge has named Messrs. W. Paets and the Manager of the Banco Anglo-Argentino to verify the balance-sheet. Messrs. R. Azeite and Co., 1692 Cuyo, drapers, have also applied for moratorium, with assets stated at \$39,974 and liabilities at \$24,093.

Another big failure, of course in the mayoral line, was spoken of to-day, which means that the usual moratorium will be applied for shortly. The house is of very old standing and bore an excellent reputation.

The River Plate Telegraph Company's counsel yesterday laid its case with the Government, for closing its offices, before the Supreme Federal Court, the only absent member of which was Dr. Varela.

There was a fair attendance of the public. The general impression in legal circles is that the decision of the Court, which will be delivered next week, must, inevitably, be in favour of the Company.

At the meeting of creditors of Messrs. Guthmann and Brothers, held yesterday in the office of judge Dr. Amuschastegui, Mr. G. Arning, the syndic, presented his report, in which he says that the assets are mostly bills receivable which amount to \$14,777 gold and \$4,554% and the liabilities \$6,759 gold and \$72,668%.

Mr. Pinckney, our esteemed ham and sausage friend, has gone to law with the Franco-Argentine Distillery. According to the agreement, Mr. Pinckney was named manager of the big business La Quilmera in Concepcion, with 15% of the net profits up to \$30,000 gold per annum, and 50% of the profits over that sum. All disputes, according to the articles, have to be submitted to arbitration, and Mr. Pinckney claims that this be ordered by the courts in the event of the Distillery wishing to break the arrangement. He calculates that this breach of agreement sums a loss to him of \$536,000.

LONDON "TIMES" AND THE MESSAGE.

The cables from London announce "a pessimistic impression over the Message and commercial depression on 7." This is admitted to be the fruit of the *Times* correspondent's gleanings here, but surely there is nothing very new about the depression, whilst as to the pessimistic impression it cannot be got out of the address, which is truthful and reassuring.

If our colleague knew more about the commercial crisis and the situation in general, such a qualification as pessimistic might be warranted, but it is to be presumed that it does not. How could it know secrets, such as the payment of a great part of the administration in arrears, probability of the Customs Revenue showing a steady decline, because the houses can no longer sell on credit, and must, therefore, curtail the imports, exchange of gold and gold taking leave. All this is not to be gleaned from the Message, because it has no place therein, but it is what we have to face the winter with, which is the rub. The Government can show a strong hand because it has always the wonderful vitality of the country at its back to bring it out afloat in the long run, but the market has to consider such immediate and imperative considerations in making up its impressions and has good reason to be pessimistic, if this means looking forward cautiously. The depression undoubtedly exists, but so long as our banks and leading houses are strong and immovable there is little danger of the cloud threatening a storm. After all it will be a pinch to get through the winter and then unless adversity again strikes hard, it will be plain sailing on a summer sea.

SALE OF PORT LANDS.

May 12th.
The great topic of conversation to-day after the second hour, in the gloaming, was the sale of the Castells lands in the Port, brought off by Messrs. Varela and del Valle, for account of the brokers who were Mr. Castells' creditors. They were put up some time ago at \$50 the metre, upset price, but failed to move off, and were brought to the hammer again to-day "sin base," as they had to be sold to close off the business. A worse moment could hardly have been selected, though it was not of choice, of course, but as these lands are only suitable for warehouses and deposits, it stands to reason that only merchants would be interested in purchasing them. B.Aires merchants just at present are not in a position either to buy or build with trade paralyzed, credit restricted and a crisis taking shape; hence their indifference to these fine sites. The lands sold are considered better situated than those of the Government, yet they only realized 20 dollars the vara, which only Mr. Varela says is the price of land in Calabullo or Palermo, but not on the very port where every vara should be sold in gold. Twenty dollars the vara is a crisis price. It is the best we suppose that could be got, and it must seem so with the Government lands hanging fire altogether, but those who think that the lands will not move off because the base is too high are leagues out of their reckoning, as they are not worth \$50, but \$100 the metre and cheap at that. It is not the upset price, but the bad times that stop the way. We may also set it down as the opinion of one of the oldest and soundest heads on "Change" that the Government will require every inch of these lands for Customs Deposits, and the less it can sell, therefore, the better. As to the Castells liquidation the creditors with this sale will barely get 40% instead of the 80% they counted on.

MURDER OF MR. L. GACHE.

The Bolas was shocked to-day over the awful news of the cold-blooded assassination of Mr. Gache in the Nequen. He was well-known here, having been for a long time in the employ of the British Bank of South America, where he was generally esteemed. Over some trivial dispute words came to blows, as according to the telegram he hit Del Campo, the criminal, who immediately went for his revolver and shot Gache point blank through the neck. Both filled posts in the local administration there. The facts speak for themselves and are another exemplification of the utter disregard for consequences that a lax Criminal Code engenders. All that is required now to make the sentence of "protection for life" a biting one is that the Crown Prosecutor, as in Mr. Wanklyn's case, should allege as attenuating circumstance that the criminal was himself in danger of his life. We are only echoing public sentiment at large in dwelling on the premeditation so manifest in this horrible crime. It is not the social position that makes it so grave. Day after day cases are reported of lives lost in drunken brawls which doubtlessly are to be condemned and duly punished; but it is only when cold-blooded assassination comes up for judgment that opinion arises in all its majesty to demand expia-

tion. Nor is it enough to deplore the occurrence. Society humanity, is outraged and shocked, and demands satisfaction. Where is the need for law or the use of order, if life, the primordial condition of society, is at the mercy of mere rancorous feeling.

BANKING ITEMS.

The report and balance-sheet of a very prosperous banking institution, the Banco Popular Argentino, was handed round to-day and shows a very favorable year. The Board points out that everything shows increase, the paid-up capital having advanced from \$1,064,560 to \$1,372,323. The deposits are returned at \$2,579,559 and the investments \$2,997,900, the cash in hand being \$1,163,116. The net profits amounting to \$152,305 admit of a distribution of 10% as dividend, and an addition of \$57,330 to the Reserve Fund, which makes the latter now \$336,615. For a saving-bank this shows very well indeed. The principal merchants in the partido of Juarez intend to found a local bank and have named a committee to draw up the statutes. The new bank will have a capital of \$600,000% in 3 series of \$200,000 each, and shares of \$200. They already dispose of \$150,000 towards the new concern.

The Banco Sud Americano in liquidation commences to-day to pay the seventh dividend of \$7 per share.

The National Mortgage Bank has despatched 170 applications for the new cedulas G as follows:—

	\$ %
Rosario.....	11 37,400
Santa Fé.....	80 192,900
Parana.....	27 92,800
Uruguay.....	4 13,800
Mendoza.....	3 22,000
San Juan.....	3 18,000
Santiago.....	2 8,000
	884,900

The applications on which above amounts were granted summed up to a round million dollars. The board has at present no application under consideration, as the others were returned to the local boards for amplification of data. The business goes very slowly and the market has already booked it as a fiasco.

MILITARY.

Our prophetic soul has many a time and oft whispered to us that there would be still more unpleasantness some day in connection with that most unfortunate warship, the cruiser Garibaldi. Our p.s. was right. Our tremendous contemporary the *Prensa* opened the ball yesterday with some startling revelations. It appears that the new commander of the cruiser, Captain Barilari, when examining the ship from stern to stern on taking her over, found forty five feet of her bottom, amidships, all bulged, and the plates twisted. He, the second commander, our gallant friend Captain Lomi and all the officers of the ship signed a report to Navy department of the unpleasant discovery, and Captain Laure Adjutant General of Marine and other superior officers have gone to Bahia Blanca to investigate the case. Several sailors paid off from the ship say that she ran aground on the English bank, yet the books of the ship do not contain a word about this! This is a serious side of the affair. Another version is that, besides grazing the English Bank, she hugged the shore too closely on arriving at Bahia Blanca, and bumped on a reef of hard sand and shells, off Point Asuncion. Her then commander, Captain Domecq Garcia, will be summoned by telegraph to explain matters.

Letters from well-informed parties at Paysandu say that Lamas did give Villar's forces a beating last week at Corrales, but not a very bad one; as it was mere skirmishing between the advanced guards, and called a victory because some of the Government cavalry scouts bolted. Villar is encamped on the bank of the Tarruquero, 12 miles from San Francisco; but Lamas has slipped away from him, and nobody knows his present whereabouts.

There is a general conviction amongst the public and the National Guards themselves that the months of July, August and September, fixed for their "Doctrinal Exercises" this year, are by no means the best for drilling in "brin" uniforms; and it is hoped that the new War Minister will order them later in the year by at least six weeks or two months.

During their short stay in this city, before leaving for Europe in the Mark yesterday, the German officers who have left the Chilean army visited all the barracks in town, and were very favourably impressed with the ready-for anything and tough appearance of the troops of the Line. These officers are Majors Baron von Wrangel, von Wolfen and Roth and Captains Schnevoigt and Gütlich.

The Military and Naval Clubs here have sent a fraternal wire to the Military Club in Rio, in reply to its friendly telegram in connection with the interminable pow-wow there in honour of Admiral Goni's squadron, the visit of which has drawn forth such effective demonstrations of "fino amor" from the three chief nations of South America.

The Army Staff is now busy about the grounds to be selected for artillery practice during the drilling of the National Guards. Mr. Demarshi has patriotically offered his land at South Barracas, and Mr. Silveira his, at Flores, for the purpose.

The new telegraph service to the Artillery encampment at Villa Mercedes San Luis, has been opened to the public.

The "tattered uniforms" used by the N. G's at Denney are being patched and washed for the "Doctrinales" in July, August and September. This is the first step in the heroic re-encounter, which the full-payment programme of Congress has forced on the country.

PERSONAL.

We feel great pleasure in welcoming to these shores Colonel Trueman, Major Woods, Captain Peters and the other officers who have come out to purchase remount horses for the British army. The gallant Colonel was formerly commander of the 7th Dragoon Guards, but now holds a high post in the War Office. He and his brother officers have for mission to take a good look at the Argentine Horse, and see if the game little brute is strong enough to carry British troopers. The younger officers that have come with him are all splendid Polo players, especially Lieutenant Lane, and intend to challenge our local teams during their stay; so our sporting readers may look out for several treats in this line. Growls of English residents went to the Royal Hotel on Sunday to welcome our gallant visitors.

Captain William J. Nunes, the popular Commodore of the Argentine Yacht Club, and one of the most distinguished officers in the Navy, was elected on Monday night Chairman of the Centro Naval. We congratulate Captain Nunes on the appointment, which must be all the more complimentary to him, as he carried the votes over his distinguished rival candidate, Colonel Garcia, Chief of the Naval Staff.

Mr. Reginald Mold, who has been for many years connected with the important firm of Hardy and Co., has now been admitted as partner. A well considered and merited arrangement.

Don Juan Moore, of Lobos, was also welcomed to-day. He reports everything doing well in that quarter. Don Juan, who is an authority on wool, does not think that the Dingley tariff will do the Plate the slightest harm, as he reasons very logically that if the wool is required it will be bought, tariff or no tariff, and the people to suffer will be the consumers, not the producers. He also thinks that the fall in prices has been exaggerated, as the Lobos estancieros have hardly suffered to a greater extent than about 10% on the whole. However, it should be borne in mind that it is the inferior wools which really showed the marked depreciation in value.

There was a quiet little gathering on the 11th at "Los Cedros", Quilmes, to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Morgan on their silver wedding. The guests from Belgrano, Flores and the city returned to town by special train, which left Quilmes at 1 a.m.

Mr. John Augier was welcomed back from outside, where he had a run over the South of Santa Fé and Cordoba line, of which he is a director in London, then going on to Mendoza, the progress of which province left him astounded. He found it bitterly cold there, and says that in England he never experienced such solid cold as on Sunday last in Mendoza. Mr. Augier brings back the most favorable impressions.

We had the pleasure of a visit on Thursday from Mr. Richard Tiplady, superintendent of the Bahia and San Francisco Railway, Brazil. He must be the doyen of railway men in South America, as he has been located in Brazil for 39 years and has seen moving vicissitudes of men and fortunes in that long spell. He reports Brazil now terribly knocked about, and exchange at the lowest point it has ever touched. The fanatical flare-up at Canudos he does not consider of much importance, though the rebels have received supplies and ammunition which will help them considerably in maintaining the strong positions they occupy, and it is a strange thing that until the Government troops moved on Canudos this place was unknown, not being marked on either plan or map. It is of course a very primitive town as regards architecture, but Mr. Tiplady estimates that it must comprise at least 2,000 houses. The sugar production seems to be on the decline, as on the Bahia and San Francisco line the carriage since the Emancipation law has dwindled to an insignificant number. Coffee is on the increase, but prices are not favorable, and cotton-planting has almost been abandoned. Mr. Tiplady only put the Plate a hurried visit for the benefit of his health. He arrived in the Danube and leaves again to-morrow in the same packet, but purposes paying a longer visit next year.

The many friends in the Plate of Mr. J. O'Donoghue, well-known veterinary surgeon, will be interested in learning that he is now fighting for the flag in Beha-malaz and having pretty lively times of it too. He writes to a friend here from Kuruman camp, under date March 20th 1897, as follows:— "I arrived here on the 9th in charge of my troop, escorting a convoy of 18 wagons. On Saturday morning we received secret orders to prepare 165 all ranks, to go down the river at sunset and attack the rebels at Gamopedi, a place attacked by Sir G. Warren 18 years ago. We marched 37 miles, and after 2 hours off saddle, went on attacking at sunrise. We started operations at about 400 yards. The natives surprised, rushed out of their huts, firing very hotly on us, and the bullets were uncomfortable for some minutes. We then crossed a shift, 2 or 3 at a time, and when we got over the natives started running, halting about every 50 metres to pot at us from the bush. We killed about 40. One young Colonial was killed early in the fight, and we had a sergeant shot in the leg, besides losing two horses. We got back on Sunday with dead and wounded. I captured a rifle and some horses. We are Cape Mounted Rifles 150 Volunteers. Artillery 100, Mounted Infantry Volunteers 200, Vryburg Mounted Volunteers 250, Infantry 300, medical staff etc. Next week we expect to attack the Longberg, where there are, we believe, 5,000 natives well armed. Colonel Dalgetty C.M.B. is chief of the expedition."

The friends of Mr. F. W. Greene of the Port Works—and their name is half a dozen legions—gave him a sumptuous banquet on Saturday at the "Ori" in Calle Piedad, to speed him on his way to Europe. Some eighty gentlemen sat down to a "menu" fit to place before the Czar of Russia. Numerous speeches in honour of the guest of the evening, were made and, with the assistance of a good piano, "the feast of reason and the flow of soul" was kept up till an early hour this morning.

TARIFF AND WOOL.

Telegrams from Washington state that the House is not at all disposed to agree to the changes made in the Dingley bill in the direction of still higher duties than those originally proposed. President McKinley is said to be strongly opposed to the proposed excessive duty on raw sugars, and the House does not fancy having a duty placed on hides.

Speaker Reed, Chairman Dingley of the Ways and Means Committee, and Gen. Grosvenor of Ohio, one of the leaders of the House and a great friend of the President, and who did much to secure his nomination and election, accuse the Senate Committee of playing into the hands of the great Trusts, especially the Sugar Trust, and it looks as though the House, if the Senate accepted the Committee's amendments, could resort to almost any expedient to defeat them. However, until the bill has been under discussion in the Senate it is not possible for us, at this distance from the scene of strife, and with the limited information received by telegraph, to judge what the outcome will be. We thought that the recent telegrams foreshadowing the passage of the bill by the Senate by a large majority, and at an early date, were not in keeping with our mail advices from Washington, which told of the demands made by certain influential Western Senators, to which we have referred in a recent issue.

The duties that have been collected on wools for some years past, and that it is proposed to collect under the new tariff, show as follows:—First and second-class wools, under the tariff of 1883, paid 10 cts. and 12 cts. a pound; under the Wilson law 11 cts. and 12 cts.; under the McKinley law (the existing tariff) they are free. The House proposes a duty of 11 cts. and 12 cts., and the Senate Finance Committee a duty of 8 cts. and 9 cts. Third-class wools, under the law of 1883, if valued above 13 cts. a pound, paid 5 cts.; under the McKinley law 50 % ad valorem; under the Wilson law they are free, while the Dingley law, as it passed the House, fixes the rate at 32 % ad valorem, and the Senate Committee places a duty of 5 cts. a pound on this class of wools valued not over 10 cts. a pound, and 7 cts. on those valued over 10 cts. But it must be remembered that the Senate Committee, if it reduced the duty somewhat on wools, placed a duty on hides that did not appear in the bill as passed by the House. It would seem to be evident that the Senate and House will have to make mutual concessions before they can agree on a bill that will pass both Houses, and whether Argentine interests will gain or suffer thereby, remains to be seen.

LAND OFFICE REPORT FOR 1896.

The National Land Office has just issued its report for 1896. The document is a most extensive one, but full of interesting data from cover to cover. We take the following from this Blue Book: During the year 1896, 268,477 hectares 62 areas of territory were leased under the conditions of the decrees issued on the 17th of January 1884, and 14th of May 1895. Nearly the whole of land leased was in Rio Negro and the Pampa, the figures for both territories being 118,409, 12 areas and 113,703 hectares respectively, whilst the rest was leased in Neuquen, Chaco, Tierra del Fuego and Southern Islands, the following proportion: 17,500 hectares, 15,500, 2,000 and 1890 hectares. Putting it in round numbers we can say that 44 % of all the territory leased belongs to Rio Negro and 42 % to the Pampa. The land given over by the Government as property during the same year amounted to 3,172,032 hectares, 56 areas.

THE IRISH ORPHANAGE.

May 11th.
A committee meeting of the Irish Orphanage took place at the Orphanage, at Calle Rio Bamba, on Sunday afternoon, at 2 p.m., Dr. O'Farrell in the chair. Amongst those present we noticed the following: Messrs. James Garhy, P. Ham, D. Saffern, John Moore, M. G. Byrne, F. W. Dolan, James Feeney, N. Fitzgerald, J. Fitzsimons, Luis Greaven, Michael Duggan, Dr. Murphy, Dr. Gannon, etc.
After considerable discussion, and on the recommendation of the sub-committee entrusted to study the plan, it was decided to accept those presented by Messrs. Inglis and Thomas as the most economical and the best.

The committee then passed a vote of thanks to those other architects, whose plans were presented, but could not be accepted for one reason or another.
The Sub or Building Committee will now call for tenders to build the new orphanage from said plans, which for architectural beauty, general distribution, comfort and hygiene compare favourably with anything in the shape of public buildings hitherto erected in this city.
The cost, with the keys in the door, will be \$150,000.
We congratulate Messrs. Inglis and Thomas on their successful plans, which call forth much praise from all who have seen them.

OBITUARY.

Our readers will be grieved to hear that the patriarch of the Scotch Community, Don Roberto McClymont, died on Thursday at his residence Calle Santa Fe No. 1815. We think he was the doyen of the British community for he was 95 years of age. Another land-mark gone, with memories of the youth of this country since the thirties, and in whose career we can trace the history of Scotchmen in the Plate. The funeral takes place to-day at 3 p.m. from Calle Santa Fe 1815, and carriages will be in waiting at Mr. Dock's at 2:30 p.m. at Calle Lavalle No. 547. The death of Mr. McClymont plunges leading families of the community into mourning, and we tender to them our sincere condolence in their bereavement.

ESPERANZA COLONY.

Advices from Esperanza Colony in Santa Fe report that the weather has favoured the cultivation of land up there. Rain came down at the right time, and summer

lasted enough for maize, beans and potatoes to ripen. Linseed is only sown now. This good news is however dampened by the fact that many colonists are in bad circumstances. Seed and money are wanting, and also credit. The assistance given to these colonists is very meagre indeed, and does not cover even the sixth part of their real necessities. If help does not arrive at the proper time, over 200,000 hectares of ploughed land will remain useless. This would represent a loss to the colonists of \$10,000,000, calculating the yield at only six quintals per hectare. All this could be averted with the help of one million paper dollars. Business in land is at a complete stand still on account of the commercial and agricultural crisis; and should another bad year be in store for the hard working colonist, then large tracts of land will again be so many hectares of useless camp.

General News.

The cold snap in the weather, the prospect of an end to the war between Greek and Moslem, the Star of the Gold Eagle, the debut of Ferrari's opera company to-night, the San Luis political powder, the conflicting opinions about President Uribe's Message to Congress, etc., etc., contributed to keep things moving yesterday in the busy hands of men in this big shop of a city. There was really nothing new of importance in any quarter. Top coats and "tapados" were the order of the day, owing to the slump in the thermometer.

Beware, readers, how you buy Lottery tickets, except in the most respectable "agencies". The forging fraternity have, for the moment, abandoned bank notes and taken to imitating and falsifying Lottery tickets. Above all, beware of the innocent-looking urchins who enter the tram cars and offer you tickets—"El grande; el ultimo billete que me queda!" A Torchlight Procession on the night of the 24th, and, we suppose, of the 25th also, is one of the patriotic ideas of the Rt. Honble. the Lord Mayor in connection with the Fiestas Patrias. It's a good one, and won't cost much.

The Deputies scraped up a quorum yesterday, named their several Committees, and broke up, to enjoy themselves at 4:30 p.m. Half a dozen letters were received from Deputies of the provinces saying that they cannot turn up till the middle of the month, owing to ill-health and "urgent private affairs". One of these precious representatives of the people begins the session by asking for leave of absence from the first two sittings! What representatives the people have!

WEDNESDAY.

There is a flutter at present in local scientific circles in consequence of a report diligently circulated by a medical doctor that the secret of perpetual motion has been solved—and that by a watch-maker alongside the Grand Hotel. Crowds assemble daily to watch the working of a clock moved by perpetual motion! We should like to take that clock to pieces.

No change in the San Luis Interim. Everybody concerned is talking thinking and "conferenciando". One of the two Governors with which the unfortunate province is blessed (or the other thing) has sent a Pleno to the President of the Republic to argue the point all round. The Governor of Santa Fe, the Man of the Woods, has also arrived in town, on political thoughts. The Chambers held a sitting yesterday, and there was such a row that the police had to be called in several times to restore order.

The propaganda of La Prensa in reference to there being something wrong with the Drainage Works is beginning to attract attention, and recall all the adverse criticism on those works when they used to be called the Bateman Legacy. There can be no question as to the field mules in several parts of the city during the past summer; and the Salubrité Commissioners should avail of the winter months to overhaul the works, and if there is anything wrong, rectify it before the hot weather comes round again. Otherwise the consequences may be serious indeed.

THURSDAY.

The oldest of old stories! The Honorable Deputies of the nation "no-quedó" yesterday. There is really some excuse for them. The sleepy Executive has proposed to Congress neither new Bills to discuss, nor asked it to take up many important ones that have been lying for a long time. There is a kind of paralysis in Executive quarters at present, as if they had gone out in their stockings, and forgotten to put on their boots.
There was nothing very fresh about the Intervention in San Luis yesterday; the motion at the Meeting of the Legislature on Tuesday was tremendous, and the strongest language was used by the members; and when the worthy fray was over, one Deputy sent his seconds to another, summoning him to the "field of honour"; but it is thought that the coffin-makers will make no profit out of the affair.

An improvement in the intended site of the Industrial Exhibition building has come about through Mr. Sebe's refusal to give the Catalinas lands in the port for the purpose, so the show will be held in Plaza San Martin, with the old Pavilion as the centre point. This is much better, as the port lands of the Catalinas are out of the way, and there is a bareness and unfavourable seeliness about the surroundings that would in no way tend to the success of the industrial racket.

Another Exhibition! A Paris syndicate anxious to contribute to the advancement of this country, propose to run a Universal Exhibition here in the year 1899. The syndicate are all French manufacturers, who want to show their own wares to South America, and they propose to risk no less than twenty millions of francs in the business, on which the National Government is said to look with a very favourable eye, as such an amount of fresh money is by no means to be sneezed at. The modern Gauls boss the world in the Exhibition line, no matter what Uncle Sam may say or think to the contrary.

FRIDAY.

The magnificent stained glass window in memory of the late Thomas Drysdale which has been placed in the Nave of the Scotch Church is now concluded, and will be on view on Sunday forenoon. Special reference will be made to it at the Morning Service. This is the finest stained glass window in the city, and is a great improvement to the church.

General Roca, with a large number of friends, visited on Wednesday the careening dock at the North end of the Madero Port; and Mr. Dobson of Masses, Hawkshaw, Hayter and Dobson showed the distinguished party round in an open car. The General was very much impressed with the magnitude and solidity of the works, and warmly complimented the contractors.

Experiments with Koch's tuberculina, a small quantity of which was recently sent out by Mr. C. Sommer, Argentine Consul in Hamburg, are now being made in the Casa de Asilamiento, and the Health Board has asked the Lord Mayor to send for more, to use it in the public hospitals.

SATURDAY.

Yesterday could not fairly be called a new day, except amongst politicians, who are now all as busy as bees, and gradually getting their heads hot. To the astonishment of all the Bruins, Bovines and guttersnipes in Mammon's Temple, the Gold Eagle showed his contempt for recent export of coin by dropping. "How is this this?" was the query on all sides.

We had the pleasure yesterday of watching the pumping dry of the grave docks at the North End of the North Basin. The two big engines pumped the water out of the smaller graving dock in two hours and fifteen minutes. The depth of water in the North Basin at the time was 24 feet. We reserve for our next issue a description of this part of the Madero Port, and our impressions after a careful visit to the works.

The discussion of "The Sunday Question" by the St. Andrew's Debating Society last night, attracted a very considerable audience. Mr. E. Cordero opened the question in a most masterly manner, changing, from his remarks, that he thought that innocent amusement, and with the proper observance of the Sabbath, provided that those taking part, did not neglect their duty to their Maker by devoting some portion of the day to His worship. Several of those present spoke on the subject, but, as no real opposition to Mr. Cordero's remarks was raised, there was really no debate on the question.

Paraguay has signed the first treaty she has ever made with our far-southern Chilean friends. It is, on the surface, merely one of extradition; but "quien sabe" what it may expand to later on?

SUNDAY.

According to the La Plata Wiggins, there should be rain to-day and, as the moon is at the full this morning, perhaps there will. However, as we have a wet Sunday, we shall take it as a special favour if the Clerk of the Weather kindly postpone anything in the "agua" line till to-morrow, and allow self and readers to have a Sunday out. Yesterday there were a lot of people out, and the traffic and crush, and snap-up and the stoppages in the Central streets were simply tremendous. The winter buzz has commenced in all classes of society, and promises to be loud and long. It's all for the good of trade.

The news from B.O. yesterday was as usual contradictory. Buda says the rebels are pumped out, and will have to throw up the sponge instead of the "poncho" before a month is out. On the other hand, our well informed contemporary Tribuna, says that Lamas knocked General Muñiz into half a dozen of cocked hats in the last fight, capturing 3 guns and 1500 uniforms of the Government troops. "Unitario!" Queer kind of booty!

The convicts at Tierra del Fuego are to be made to work for their bread and butter in future. The saw mill at Ushuaia is to be handed over to the Director of the Prison.

Commercial News.

MONDAY.

The ambient on Change to-day was decidedly pessimistic, probably owing to the change in the current, which has veered round very sharply and determinedly. Why the optimism of yesterday should be pessimism to-day it is difficult to see, as when all is said and done, there has been no change for the worse. Rather the contrary, the Honest Message shews without glamour or subterfuge, bush-beating or shilly-shallying, the main outlines of the situation, without attenuation, concealment or exaggeration; and it can hardly be pretended that under such conditions the situation could have been expected to show up so favourably as it does. Nor is the advance in gold an alarming feature either. That it may mark a growth of pessimism is only too probable, but the change is a return to normal conditions, which, paradoxical as it may seem, under the circumstances, is highly satisfactory. If with exchange below par, and business paralysed alike in exports and imports, commercial failures a daily feature and credit thus naturally restricted, gold were to have continued falling, it would have been a financial phenomenon. Then there would have been cause for alarm, as it would have meant and reflected a condition of distress far more severe than we are willing to suppose, exists. It would have meant inability of the importers to remit a cent, which would have been so wholesale as things have not quite reached that stage just yet; not a single importing firm has, up to now, failed, and though the situation will naturally be slower than usual, there will always be something going forward. As to the future course of gold it is difficult to hazard any very defined opinion, but we may give it as the general impression that if Congress will only be rigorously economical in its abstention in the matter of paper issues, the premium instead of expanding will contract. The actual bullish ten-

dency of gold is partly the reaction and partly the offspring of apprehensions generated by rumours set afloat to that end.

TUESDAY.

The battle raged on the Rubicon to-day, or rather the skirmishing, as it was a field day in any sense. Strange to say, the tendency at the start was weakish. The bears succeeded in hoisting 298 1/4 before the return swing set in which put the price high and dry at 300.50. The marked feature if anything, however, was not the rally in rates but the first symptoms of a revival in business on time, which if continued will assure more confidence and greater stability. Since the Castells-Krauch transactions for other dates than the current month have been remarkable for meagreness, due partly to the distrust which that snag-up gave rise to, and the growing depression in trade generally. This seems now to be giving way, that is, the distrust, as the depression in trade will not work out in a day, nor in a week nor in a month. Much will depend on how the next harvest shows, but it is very clear that meantime we have to face the winter with pinched means and scant resources. That gold should keep up, therefore, is the natural consequence, and will not inspire apprehensions. We do not with those who think that the price of gold is hardening because there are signs of convulsion in the interior, saying, we think, a stormy presidential campaign. Those in touch with the political movement and feeling attach no importance whatever to the San Luis and Santa Fe effervescences, mere local squabbles, and it is looked upon as a foregone conclusion that General Roca will be hailed president without the slightest opposition. The future has no terrors. It is the present that looks clouded and puts a backbone into the premium.

WEDNESDAY.

Once taken for granted or at least admitted that gold has hardened without the chance assuming menacing proportions, it is easy to understand the "stagnant quod" attitude of things at present. Under the first blush of the heavy shipment, which is now known to be \$200,000, going forward to "Fatherland," the rates began to show rocketing symptoms, jumping from 301.50 to 303 almost in a bound, setting many a nervous system at extreme tension, and holding forth menace of alarming developments; but fortunately the excitement subsided almost as rapidly as it had taken shape, and at the close of the first hour the market was distinctly less buoyant on the opening rate. Such an extraordinary outcome was totally unexpected, and was, of course, freely commented on. With the winter barely starting and gold already going forward on a heavy scale, it was quite within the natural order of things to expect an impressionable, nervous market; but the latter seems quite indifferent to the movement, and of course it is difficult to see why. The bulls had a specious rumour afloat that the bears, to save themselves, had borrowed a large sum of gold, said to be 300,000 dollars, to curb the advance, whilst the bears gave the retort courteous that "the bulls were brought and in the necessity of covering or managing the gamut of the fortnightly settlement. However that may be, the market is here, and for the moment, but the under-current is not for a fall but a rise, which must eventually be the normal tendency. Things are very quiet, and there is apparent tranquillity, but every body complains of the paralysis in trade, which is more palpable every day.

THURSDAY.

There is practically nothing to say about the gold market, as things are just as they were, nothing changed, and no signs of any change imminent. It is strange that this should be so with the fortnightly liquidation within immediate view, especially as business for the 15th has always been fairly brisk, but as a matter of fact things could not be slower, so it must be supposed that in the fluctuations the differences were wiped out. Speculation there is none. It is a set formula on Change now, when a broker unbosoms himself as to his reading of the market and the shaping of the ends, to start with: "I may state I have not a cent bought, or sold," as the case may be, and though it generally provokes a malicious contortion of the smile muscles, as is likely true as not, certainly veracious as to the interest of the speaker, being almost, if not quite, purely platonic. The old leaven does not work out easily, and we suppose there are few in the ring that have not got their 5,000 or 10,000 on the board of the moment; though perhaps more to keep the hand in and the eye clear than for anything else. Impressions and convictions are by no means profound. On the whole, the market is bullish, but as there is no steady bearing upwards, no push, no current, no spin, there is quite as much readiness to operate on the fall as on the rise, and very little disposition to operate at all. At the first hint of day prices kept very steady, but as the total of sales was enormously below the average, the market was melancholy-slow. Stocks too are not faring well, the bottom seeming to have dropped completely out of Catalinas, whilst even such good stocks as Old Gas and Argentine Gas were down and despondent. Strange to say, National Cédulas keep up, the F's being down at 87.50.

FRIDAY.

The sharp break-back in the market to-day took everyone by surprise. Not that it was of any marked importance or the result of a clean swing round. But it does seem strange, with all the features of the situation proclaiming an advance inevitable during the winter, to find the market breaking. There is no push, no under-spring, no speculative influence at work; the movement is almost insignificant, yet the prices are lashing out as if gold were a veritable drug. Perhaps it is. With exchange at 47 1/16, and gold draining out of the country, a fall in the rates seems absurd, absolutely impossible were the situation normal; but as the situation is not normal, gold falls in the teeth of everything. Unfortunately it cannot be looked upon as an entirely satisfactory either. What little business there is going on is checked by the break, whilst an appreciation that betokens poverty and adversity has nothing comforting about it. It would be paradoxical as it may seem, a much better sign to see gold stiff, since it would at least tend to show that things are not quite so bad, but that gold is

being taken up for remittances. On the other hand, with gold falling and the outlook so bald and stark, it is to be assumed that the situation is bad indeed. Again were houses buying gold we should see a speculation soon set afoot and the old laws of fluctuation with swings and rallies again in force. But the market is heavy and lifeless, so that there is no speculation, no life, no vitality, and such will probably be the conditions for some time.

SATURDAY.

With gold remaining over very weak from yesterday, and the fortnightly settlement coinciding with the usual Saturday's requirements, both bears and bulls expected to see things moving very briskly, naturally each side to its own mind. The result satisfied neither, as the rally was of the very flimsiest kind, certainly not of a stamp to base hopes upon of anything very definite later on. The fall has been arrested, but the bulls have made up none of the lost ground; the six points fall is still there. Thus it must be confessed that the bears have the best of the argument so far, and if there were any outlook at all reassuring as regards exchange for the next three months, the conditions might be considered satisfactory. But with produce well nigh exhausted, exchange can only keep firm conditional on gold shipments, a phase not calculated to keep quotations on the decline. It seems to be a pretty general impression that gold shipments are at an end—a consummation devoutly to be wished. If there were no requirements perhaps it would be so, but it is very certain that the banks cannot enter the market without sweeping everything up and precipitating rates, a result they will strive to avert at all hazards, which must mean necessarily falling back on the extreme but always efficacious resource of shipments. The cry of "wolf" is on every lip. People keep up an endless iteration of the absolute paralysis of trade, to convince themselves perhaps that nothing is being sold and no remittances to be made. In part, even to a great extent, it is true, but for all that trade is never so dull here but there is lots of life, stir and business. A leading banker tells us the depression complained of on all sides is greatly exaggerated, so that the remittances have to, and are, going forward. This means demand for bills, and the supply will necessarily be very meagre for some months, which would seem to point to a higher premium. Yet we have to report the gold market weak, unmoved and almost unchanging; quite abnormal.

The fluctuation in gold to-day was quite insignificant. Prices at the first hour may be said to have moved within the narrow margin of a point, which is remarkable, inasmuch as nearly 1 1/4 million dollars changed hands altogether. The rumours of omission and news of the locust invasion in Entre Rios seemed to have no effect, at least they did not influence prices, which, opened at 298 and closed at 298.20, a 20 cents pass being paid for end of month and about 1 1/4 point for June. After the hour there was very little done and rates remained unchanged. Stocks were quite neglected.

Business at the second hour was far from brisk; still the market continued to show a bearish tendency, which was none the less puzzling that it was very plainly marked, and we note that even the staunchest bulls have abandoned all hopes of seeing the rally they expected come off this month. For one thing exchange is firm, which will allay all apprehensions for the moment as to gold shipments, whilst again, meagre as is the supply of cash gold, the demand is more insignificant still. Every one bows to the puzzle; none can solve it. The gold should rule weak and heavy, with things as they are, simply phenomenal, yet there it is, and striving against the fact has already cost the bulls so much money that they are losing heart and ground every day. The volume of transactions was very mean, considerably short of half a million, yet the rate opened at 298.50 and closed at 297.80; after the hour 298 sales was the quotation. In stocks the only feature was greater buoyancy in Catalinas.

The exchange market closed very quietly. Brokers reported nothing doing at all and rates about the same as yesterday, but on the other hand one of the banks was taking to-day, which would seem to show that rates are gradually levelling up to the point at which the banks will take. So far so good. The question is how long will this improvement last. Arguing the point in the ring to-day a money broker in close contact with the exchange market expressed his opinion that we have seen the last of shipments of specie, as he believes the houses will draw at the present rates in anticipation, covering later on. But the point is that past experiences have not been satisfactory in this respect, and it is therefore open to doubt if the operation will be repeated. How many houses in the present state of the situation can afford to do it. However, the market is undoubtedly improved and we quote:
London—47 1/16, 1/4 d.
Paris—498 98 1/2 fcs.
Antwerp—4.99 99 1/4 fcs.
Hamburg—4.06 marks.

BOLSA QUOTATIONS.

AVERAGE OF GOLD PREMIUM.

Year.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.
January	187 0/0	227 0/0	255 0/0	240 0/0
February	207 1/2	211 1/2	251	234
March	209 43	212	252	234
April	198 20	223	264	252
May	205	262	259	271
June	198	247 50	239	239
July	195	225	226	226
August	178 50	227 1/2	224	224
September	180 00	227	224	224
October	183 27	239 75	236 50	236 50
November	181 57	231 75	233	233
December				

GOLD PREMIUM IN 1894, 1895, 1896 AND 1897.

Year.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.
January	187 0/0	227 0/0	255 0/0	240 0/0
February	207 1/2	211 1/2	251	234
March	209 43	212	252	234
April	198 20	223	264	252
May	205	262	259	271
June	198	247 50	239	239
July	195	225	226	226
August	178 50	227 1/2	224	224
September	180 00	227	224	224
October	183 27	239 75	236 50	236 50
November	181 57	231 75	233	233
December				

SALES OF GOLD ON 'CHANGE.

	1894	1895	1896	1897
\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold
Jan.	40,255,000	38,729,000	32,825,000	40,150,000
Feb.	25,530,400	20,160,000	37,750,000	46,168,000
March	38,800,000	28,284,000	38,940,000	31,327,472
April	38,400,000	37,190,000	37,500,000	36,558,282
May	38,170,000	34,960,000	33,710,000	—
June	38,000,000	35,708,000	32,393,000	—
July	32,400,000	24,888,000	38,777,000	—
August	38,730,000	25,721,000	38,695,000	—
Sept.	41,070,000	34,658,000	48,927,000	—
Oct.	38,640,000	23,089,000	40,538,000	—
Nov.	38,230,000	25,035,000	38,190,000	—
Dec.	36,747,000	28,646,000	41,081,000	—
Total	458,482,190	383,031,000	456,782,000	—

DAILY AVERAGE OF GOLD SOLD ON 'CHANGE.

	1894	1895	1896	1897
\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold
January	1,610,000	1,258,000	1,313,000	1,678,000
February	1,638,000	1,247,000	1,017,000	2,007,000
March	1,408,000	1,181,000	1,545,000	1,305,000
April	1,538,000	1,333,000	1,510,000	1,602,500
May	1,628,000	1,457,000	1,405,000	—
June	1,560,000	1,239,000	1,408,000	—
July	1,268,000	857,000	1,484,000	—
August	1,588,000	1,038,000	1,545,000	—
September	1,411,000	1,388,000	1,377,000	—
October	1,467,000	1,090,000	1,593,000	—
November	1,438,000	1,295,000	1,505,000	—
December	1,331,000	1,146,000	1,493,000	—

GOLD PREMIUM IN MAY.

May	1st Ring	2nd Ring
\$ gold	\$ gold	\$ gold
1st	184 20	194 00
2nd	185 50	194 00
3rd	186 00	194 00
4th	186 50	194 00
5th	187 00	194 00
6th	187 50	194 00
7th	188 00	194 00
8th	188 50	194 00
9th	189 00	194 00
10th	189 50	194 00
11th	190 00	194 00
12th	190 50	194 00</

PRINCIPAL ARGENTINE EXPORTS.

	WOOL				WHEAT				MAIZE				LIVE STEERS				LIVE SHEEP			
	QUANTITY		VALUE		QUANTITY		VALUE		QUANTITY		VALUE		NUMBER		VALUE		NUMBER		VALUE	
	1896	1897	1896	1897	1896	1897	1896	1897	1896	1897	1896	1897	1896	1897	1896	1897	1896	1897	1896	1897
January	28,813	28,629	5,416,875	4,726,000	74,866	9,816	1,710,432	233,000	92,049	63,454	966,513	635,000	35,658	7,560	678,486	222,000	55,320	27,017	165,971	82,000
February	28,813	24,025	5,416,875	4,805,000	74,866	23,199	1,710,432	579,975	92,049	18,875	966,513	188,750	35,658	9,850	678,486	285,500	55,320	32,658	165,971	98,049
March	28,813	28,249	5,416,875	5,250,000	74,866	27,590	1,710,432	686,750	92,049	27,890	966,513	280,000	35,658	10,655	678,486	302,000	55,320	45,048	165,971	185,000
1st Quarter	86,439	78,903	16,250,625	14,781,000	228,100	60,105	5,131,297	1,502,725	276,147	110,199	2,899,540	1,103,750	106,175	27,374	2,035,460	810,500	165,961	104,748	497,913	815,409
April	13,639	19,750	2,373,239	3,947,000	77,892	13,215	1,846,057	890,000	90,777	28,500	971,319	235,000	56,538	7,000	694,163	860,000	45,001	42,138	134,997	126,000
May	13,639	23,733	2,373,239	4,805,000	77,892	23,199	1,846,057	579,975	90,777	18,875	971,319	188,750	56,538	9,850	694,163	285,500	45,001	32,658	134,997	98,049
June	13,640	23,733	2,373,240	4,805,000	77,894	23,199	1,846,057	579,975	90,778	18,875	971,319	188,750	56,539	9,850	694,164	285,500	45,002	32,659	134,999	98,050
2nd Quarter	40,918	57,216	7,119,718	13,557,000	233,678	59,613	5,131,297	2,059,950	272,332	65,250	2,913,957	612,500	169,175	27,374	2,035,460	1,103,750	165,961	104,748	497,913	815,409
Total six months	127,357	158,849	23,750,582	43,143,000	439,670	179,337	15,400,651	4,142,650	539,256	193,700	6,785,826	2,320,750	331,918	64,224	6,765,083	2,400,000	476,924	241,554	1,176,910	1,630,458
July	3,635	6,185	618,055	1,245,000	12,456	2,315	315,134	590,000	190,433	3,454	1,771,034	335,000	24,055	3,000	418,450	500,000	39,072	4,000	117,218	126,000
August	3,635	6,185	618,055	1,245,000	12,456	2,315	315,134	590,000	190,433	3,454	1,771,034	335,000	24,055	3,000	418,450	500,000	39,072	4,000	117,218	126,000
September	3,635	6,185	618,055	1,245,000	12,456	2,315	315,134	590,000	190,433	3,454	1,771,034	335,000	24,055	3,000	418,450	500,000	39,072	4,000	117,218	126,000
3rd Quarter	10,907	18,555	1,854,165	3,735,000	37,368	7,945	945,400	1,770,000	571,301	10,358	5,313,102	1,005,000	72,105	9,000	1,255,350	1,500,000	117,218	12,000	351,654	378,000
Total nine months	138,264	247,404	25,604,747	46,878,000	477,038	187,282	16,346,051	4,912,650	1,110,557	204,158	12,098,928	3,325,750	324,023	18,000	5,373,300	2,900,000	418,144	36,000	1,254,560	1,630,458
October	6,965	13,333	1,333,333	2,666,666	10,464	1,875	266,666	533,333	184,160	3,125	2,340,717	467,160	7,821	1,000	234,830	467,160	21,989	2,000	55,964	55,964
November	14,539	29,078	2,907,834	5,815,668	10,464	1,875	266,666	533,333	184,160	3,125	2,340,717	467,160	7,821	1,000	234,830	467,160	21,989	2,000	55,964	55,964
December	27,864	55,728	5,572,834	11,145,668	10,464	1,875	266,666	533,333	184,160	3,125	2,340,717	467,160	7,821	1,000	234,830	467,160	21,989	2,000	55,964	55,964
4th Quarter	49,353	94,835	9,753,532	19,500,000	31,392	5,625	533,333	1,066,666	368,320	6,250	4,681,434	934,320	15,642	2,000	468,660	934,320	93,978	4,000	111,932	111,932
Total twelve months	187,619	342,239	35,358,279	66,378,000	510,430	192,907	16,879,384	5,979,316	1,478,877	210,408	16,780,362	4,260,070	339,665	42,000	6,841,960	3,830,000	512,016	40,000	1,366,592	1,742,490
Total 1895	301,000	301,000	30,100,000	30,100,000	1,010,000	1,010,000	15,500,000	15,500,000	772,000	772,000	10,200,000	10,200,000	408,000	408,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	430,000	430,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
Total 1896	162,000	162,000	28,800,000	28,800,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	55,000	55,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	220,000	220,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	450,000	450,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Total 1897	155,000	155,000	26,500,000	26,500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	14,700,000	14,700,000	44,000	44,000	9,800,000	9,800,000	125,500	125,500	2,600,000	2,600,000	40,000	40,000	1,000,000	1,000,000

Ex. Note.—In the above table all figures of quantity and number are official, from the Custom House and Statistical Department of the Nation. All figures of value are also official, except those for the current year which are reckoned at market quotations. The uniformity in some monthly exports arises from the fact that we compute the monthly average of exports per quarter, as owing to distances and delays in means of communication, it is impossible to get the exact figures each month—the figures per quarter are exact. In the same fashion we have computed the official values per monthly average of each quarter. The quantities are expressed in tons of 1,000 kilograms, say 2,200 English pounds. The values are expressed in dollars gold worth 47¢. The above, being official quantities and numbers and official values, are the only reliable figures that can be supplied, and are the most approximately correct. The figures of export of live-stock for 1896 and previous years include animals sent across frontier to Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile and Bolivia, whilst the figures for first quarter of 1897, are limited to shipments of live-stock by steamer beyond cape.

RAILWAY RETURNS.

RAILWAY.	MILES OPEN		RECEIPTS OF WEEK.				AGGREGATE RECEIPTS TO DATE.			
	1896	1897	Date.		1896	1897	Date.		1896	1897
Buenos Ayres Great Southern	1,408	1,469	May	8th	\$ 2,215	\$ 2,504	Jan. 1st	\$ 1,191,020	\$ 1,237,655	\$ 1,100,800
Central Argentine	790	790	"	8th	" 14,342	" 14,741	Jan. 1st	" 855,047	" 895,420	" 896,627
Buenos Ayres Pacific	429	429	"	8th	" 7,829	" 7,621	Jan. 1st	" 290,757	" 248,859	" 248,102
Buenos Ayres Ensenada	129	129	"	8th	" 4,125	" 4,125	Jan. 1st	" 78,425	" 75,588	" 75,588
Buenos Ayres Western	427	405	"	8th	" 15,468	" 12,448	Jan. 1st	" 631,877	" 610,538	" 610,538
Buenos Ayres Rosario	911	915	"	8th	" 12,618	" 12,497	Jan. 1st	" 255,085	" 228,099	" 228,099
East Argentine	99	99	"	8th	" 845	" 845	Jan. 1st	" 15,537	" 15,537	" 15,537
Central Entre Rios	389	386	"	8th	" 1,094	" 1,089	Jan. 1st	" 59,863	" 59,863	" 59,863
Santa Fe Correla Great Southern	186	186	"	8th	" 2,796	" 964	Jan. 1st	" 84,618	" 79,504	" 79,504
Bahia Blanca North West	150	150	"	8th	" 537	" 537	Jan. 1st	" 15,178	" 15,178	" 15,178
Central Uruguay and Auxiliary	581	581	"	8th	" 7,764	" 7,764	Jan. 1st	" 871,707	" 820,757	" 820,757
North West Argentine	189	189	"	8th	" 1,481	" 1,481	Jan. 1st	" 24,424	" 25,016	" 25,016
National Andino	158	204	"	8th	" 1,483	" 1,483	Jan. 1st	" 24,424	" 25,016	" 25,016
Argentine Great Western	319	319	"	8th	" 7,764	" 7,764	Jan. 1st	" 871,707	" 820,757	" 820,757
Central Cordoba (Central Northern)	549	549	"	8th	" 2,796	" 964	Jan. 1st	" 84,618	" 79,504	" 79,504
Central Cordoba	128	128	"	8th	" 537	" 537	Jan. 1st	" 15,178	" 15,178	" 15,178
Cordoba and Rosario	180	180	"	8th	" 2,796	" 964	Jan. 1st	" 84,618	" 79,504	" 79,504
Oeste Santa Fe	126	126	"	8th	" 537	" 537	Jan. 1st	" 15,178	" 15,178	" 15,178
Cordoba North Western	95	95	"	8th	" 1,483	" 1,483	Jan. 1st	" 24,424	" 25,016	" 25,016
Government Central Northern	653	653	"	8th	" 7,764	" 7,764	Jan. 1st	" 871,707	" 820,757	" 820,757

Note.—Fractions of ¢ or ¢ omitted. Aggregates dated July correspond to periods from 1896 and 1896.

TRAMWAY RETURNS.

TRAMWAY	MILES OPEN.		RETURNS OF WEEK				AGGREGATE RECEIPTS TO DATE			
	1896	1897	Date		No. of Passengers	Receipts \$ m/n	Date		No. of Passengers	Receipts \$ m/n
Anglo-Argentine	74	74	May	7th	527,573	575,935	January 1st	9,894,337	10,156,324	1,047,848
Belgrano	13	13	"	9th	114,697	11,661	"	2,069,814	2,162,868	235,052
Gran Nacional	32	32	January	30th	152,694	181,526	"	"	"	"
La Nueva	13	13	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Capital	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
Metropolitano	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

Note.—Fractions of ¢ omitted.

SHIPPING DURING WEEK

From May 9th till May 16th

ARRIVALS						DEPARTURES					
FLAG	NAME	WHENCE	CARGO	WHERE FOR	CONSIGNEE	FLAG	NAME	FROM	DESTINATION		
STEAMERS—						STEAMERS—					
Norwegian	Michigan	Montevideo	Ballast	Buenos Aires	Holland & Co.	British	Juanita North	Buenos Aires	Port Natal		
British	Holmes	Liverpool	General	Do	H. L. Green	Do	Lavender	Do	Liverpool		
Do	Minho	Southampton	Do	Do	Do	Do	Manitoba	La Plata	Boston		
Do	Port Denison	Australia	Do	La Plata	Do	Italian	Balaklava	Buenos Aires	Genoa		
Do	Sardinian Prince	Santos	Ballast	Buenos Aires	Prince Line	German	Tucuman	Do	Hamburg		
Do	Zodiac	Genoa	Coal	Do	Wilson, Sons & Co.	Do	Malvinas	Do	Bremen		
Do	Baltic	Newport	Do	Do	A. Boyd	German	Minneapolis	Do	Danmark		
Italian	Nord America	Marseilles	General	La Plata	Do	Do	Port Elliot	Do	Dunkirk		
French	Espagne	Marseilles	Do	Buenos Aires	H. Py & Co.	Do	Blagdon	Do	Antwerp		
Do	Pampa	Havre	Do	Do	S. J. Hellman	Do	Blagdon	Do	Parana		
British	Atlantic	Newport	Coal	Do	F. C. S.	Do	Blagdon	Do	New York		
Do	Dunbeth	Do	Do	Do	F. C. C. A.	German	Blagdon	Do	Buenos Aires		
Do	Nanette	Liverpool	Do	Do	Buenos Ayres Gas Co.	British	Blagdon	Do	Parana		
Do	Frederic	Parana	Yerba	Do	T. S. Bondie & Co.	Do	Blagdon	Do	Buenos Aires		
Do	Fortuna	Santa Catalina	Fruit	Do	Do	Do	Blagdon	Do	Dunkirk		
Argentine	Darwin	Santos	Ballast	Do	Holland & Co.	Do	Oceanic	Do	Antwerp		
British	Do	Do	Do	Do	Cony Bros.	Do	Landana	Do	Manitoba Island		
Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Ida	Do	Elio Grande		
Do	Elizete Grange	Newport	General	Do	Rosse	Do	Zeno	Buenos Aires	Hull		
Do	Palmas	Rio Grande	Ballast	La Plata	Do	Do	La Plata	Do	Southampton		
German	Lydia	Buenos Aires	Ballast	Buenos Aires	Delfino Bros.	Italian	Sirio	Buenos Aires	Genoa		
British	Oakley	Rio Grande	Yerba	Do	T. S. Bondie & Co.	Do	Helopes	Do	Bahia Blanca		
Do	Gellivara	Cardiff	Do	Do	W. Josse	Do	Elthegonda	Do	Boston		
Do	La Plata	Bordeaux	General	La Plata	Do	Do	Florence	Do	Antwerp		
French	Lomas	Newport	Coal	Buenos Aires	C. M. Huergo	Do	Highland Lassie	Do	Las Palmas		
British	Mexican Prince	New York	General	Do	Prince Line	Do	Minho	Do	Southampton		
Do	Zephyrus	Cardiff	Do	Do	To order	Do	Lord Clyde	La Plata	Chile		
SAILING SHIPS—						SAILING SHIPS—					
Italian	Marengo	Rio Grande	Ballast	Buenos Aires	For orders	British	Sophie Kirk	Buenos Aires	Channel f.o.		
Norwegian	Kermoo	Manchester	Coal	Do	Buenos Ayres Gas Co.	Italian	Pennacola	Do	Pennacola		
Italian	Prospero Repetto	Mobile	Lumber	Do	For orders	N. American	R. T. Pettigrew	Do	Channel f.o.		
Swedish	Sirocco	Santa Catalina	Favita	Do	Ramos						
British	Darwin	Norfolk	Coal	Do	To order						